

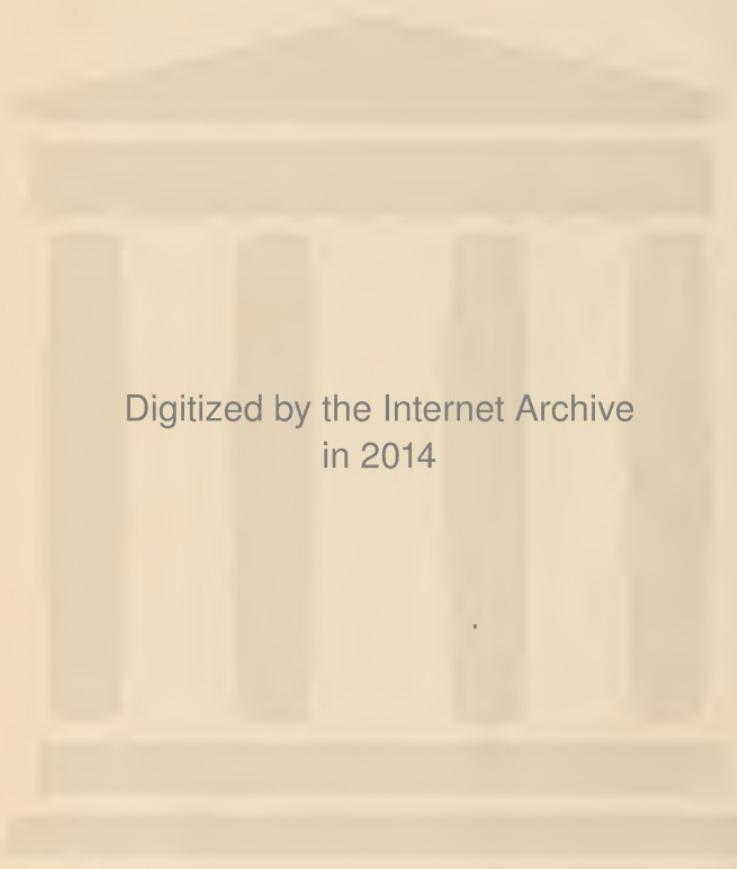


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THE JOURNAL

OF

MEDICAL REFORM:

FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PROFESSION.

PROF. I. M. COMINGS,

EDITOR.

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PROSPECTUS FOR THIRD VOLUME

OF THE

JOURNAL OF MEDICAL REFORM.

WE have now passed the Ruoicon. The difficulties and disabilities which have heretofore intercepted our endeavours to sustain the Journal of Medical Reform, are overcome, and we issue our Prospectus for the third volume with the strongest assurances of success. This Journal was established as the organ of the Metropolitan Medical College, and it will remain as the firm advocate of that Institution. As it has now secured the support of all the Faculty, it will act more efficiently than heretofore, for they are individually interested in its success.

The editor being firmly convinced, that the principles and practice of Medical Reform are founded on the laws of Nature, as developed by physiological facts, and that they will triumph ultimately, he will do all he can to lay before the profession and the people, the teachings of nature and the principles which govern her immutable laws ; and to show the harmony which exists between science and Medical Reform.

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THE
Journal of Medical Reform.
JANUARY, 1855.

Selections.

INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS ON HOMOEOPATHY.

BY DR. CHARLES A. LEE.

THIS address before the class of the Starling Medical College, is written in the author's usual clear and forcible style, and is a complete refutation of the absurdities on which Homœopathy, as an exclusive system of practice, claims to be based.

There are those who profess to believe that all mention of Homœopathy serves only to promote its extension, and who decry all agitation of topics connected therewith; as if they, on the other hand, propose forsooth, to annihilate it merely by ignoring its existence. Some such, indeed, are always present at the annual meetings of our National Medical Association; there to exert their influence solely, perhaps, in crushing any proposition for arresting the various phases of irregular practice, by a motion to "lay on the table." We have been interested to observe the extreme susceptibility of those gentlemen in connection with this class of subjects, but have not yet precisely made out its pathology.

Cherishing, however, no respect ourselves for this policy, we rejoice to see the foundations of this system so logically and fairly discussed, and, withal, so thoroughly exploded. We fully agree with Dr. Lee that a system "which has survived more than fifty years, and has in that time pervaded the whole civilized world, which has found converts among the intelligent and the educated classes, and even among well-educated (?) members of our own profession; which has its literature, its hospitals, its dispensaries, its chartered colleges; which has its practitioners scattered throughout nearly the whole extent of our country; which, however, sets itself up in opposition to the established facts and principles of medical science, boasting a superior power in controlling disease—such a system certainly has claims on

our attention and demands our most diligent and unbiassed scrutiny."

Our previous remarks will not be understood to encourage any harshness of language in regard to any of the various forms of quackery. There is no occasion for either animosity or invective; and they all flourish on both, as a certain kind of grass becomes more rank in proportion as it is trampled under foot. But a candid examination of the system under consideration, can never induce an intelligent mind to *adopt* it, but must, so far as it has any effect, produce the opposite result. To convince those of their error who have already adopted it, is, of course, not to be expected; since in no case, as we believe, have the conclusions of their *reasoning faculties* been their motive for its adoption.

To all such efforts, therefore, as those to which we have alluded, if conceived in a candid spirit, the MONTHLY will give, we hope, a fearless, and not a feeble support.

Dr. Lee admits in the outset, a great difficulty in determining precisely what Homœopathy is, just at this present time; it having for years been constantly experiencing changes. This fact is admitted even by the General Congress of German Homœopathic Physicians. Most still believe in the "spiritual effects" of medicines, as did Hahnemann, and in the astounding potency of infinitesimal doses; but some now agree with scientific physicians in rejecting both these dogmas.* These two foundations of the system are thus becoming undermined by homœopathists themselves; and the only two which are still generally maintained by them, are the doctrine that like cures like (*similia similibus curantur*) and the psoric theory of disease, which attributes at least nine-tenths of all diseases to the itch.

In order, however, to do full justice to his subject, the author has discussed all these four fundamental doctrines and their immediate corollaries. We regret that we have not the space for extended extracts. He entirely demolishes the "great cause of cure" (*similia, &c.*); which was first proposed by Hippocrates, but not as an *exclusive* principle. Hippocrates also asserted that opposites are the remedies for their opposites (*contraria contrariis curantur*); and this law must hold true so far as the remote causes and morbid symptoms are concerned, and none other can apply. Rau, and other homœopathic writers, however, adopt the law of "contraria" as well as of "similia," when this is required by the circumstances of the case, and thus we see another of the foundations of Homœopathy acknowledged to be insufficient by the followers of Hahnemann themselves.

What still remains to sustain this system? The *psoric* theory, before explained!! We cannot quote Dr. Lee's remark on this topic, but will merely inquire with him, why, if the doctrine of "sim-

* Our native Indians also agree with Homœopathists in admitting "spiritual" influences in the causation and curation of diseases.

ilia" is true, and nine-tenths of all diseases are produced by the *itch*—why homœopathists do not give "the scrapings of the skin of *itch patients* in the treatment of all these diseases, as has been suggested?"

The author demonstrates the falsity of the notion that a "disease consists in the totality of its symptoms," and that the disease is necessarily cured if its symptoms are removed. If, moreover, each case of disease is totally distinct from every other case, as homœopathists assume, then the homœopathist's experience in any case is of no value as preparatory to the treatment of any other. Again, the homœopathists ought to cure *every* case, since there is no symptom or combination of symptoms which he does not profess to have a remedy to cover. Common salt, even, will produce no less than 930 symptoms, and therefore cure as many!!

Hahnemann himself is well known to have forfeited his license as an apothecary, and been subjected to heavy penalties for his quackeries, before he commenced the experiments upon which the system is based; and Prof. Lee shows that the latter were conducted in such a way as to be totally unreliable, and that his pretended results have been found to be false by all who have repeated them since; e. g., cinchona bark, as Hahnemann says, first suggested to him the "great law of cure, because it produced chills and fever in his own person," has never produced these effects in a healthy person since, who has repeated the experiment. Thus, the very "primum mobile" of this system was a totally false assumption. Indeed, Dr. Routh, a homœopathic writer, explicitly states that all the symptoms obtained by Hahnemann's experiments, "may be referred to sobriety, fasting, ill-humor, and sleeplessness, caused by continual attention to *nothing*—mixed with those innumerable sensations which crowd every hour of our life." With this homœopathic authority on this topic, we fully coincide.

This address also makes prominent the idea, that, considering the varied and numerous powers attributed by homœopathists to each remedy (common salt has been mentioned in illustration,) no remedy could ever be actually found, the symptoms produced by which in health would precisely correspond with those of any given case of disease, and therefore this "great law of cure" is always contravened in practice; or admitting it to be possible to find such a remedy, it would be a labor of several days to become certain of the precise correspondence, during which delay it would be wrong to prescribe at all. Yet we do not find homœopathists proceeding with this extreme degree of deliberation. Moreover, a vast variety of remedies would seem to be required to suit the symptoms of different cases, as each case is assumed to be entirely distinct and different from every other. And yet in Pulte's work, the best authority, we believe, in this country, "*nconite* is recommended in all inflammatory diseases, and in more than four-fifths of *all* diseases; and the same is true of *arnica*, *belladonna*, *pulsatilla*, &c."

We regret that we cannot do Dr. Lee's address more ample justice ; but trust we have shown that it is no superficial performance. And we consider that any public medical teacher merits the thanks of the profession for setting right the minds of his pupils, so far as he may, in regard to this delusion.—*Am. Med. Monthly.*

RUPTURE OF THE UTERUS.

BY FREDERICK ROBIE, M. D.

I HAD occasion to-day to make a post-mortem examination. The previous history and the fatal issue of the case under consideration, exhibit one of the most deplorable accidents in obstetric practice. Although similar cases have been reported, mostly by English authorities, the history and circumstances of the case alluded to are of so interesting and singular a character, that with your permission I will make the medical profession acquainted with the material facts, through the pages of your Journal.

The subject of my remark—Mrs. Benner, of Waldoboro', Me.—was a married lady aged 40, and has given birth to five children—her physical organization perfect and well developed. Twenty months ago she had arrived, as she undoubtedly correctly supposed, nearly at the full term of gestation. Immediately following a violent muscular effort, in a stooping position, while putting down a carpet, she was taken ill. That which was considered suitable aid was summoned to her relief; but the case not terminating favorably, as formerly, a physician of regular standing and experience was soon needed, and sent for. The symptoms, at the earlier crisis, were, violent motion of the child, which soon ceased altogether ; collapse with cold extremities ; accelerated pulse ; frequent and excessive vomiting ; acute pain in the epigastric region, with inability to move. The pains which now confined the patient to her bed, with such inability to move, were unlike the pains of travail ; and this, with other circumstances, rendered it certain to the mind of the attending physician that labor had not commenced. Palliating means were resorted to, and every effort made to sustain the courage and spirits of the patient, with assurances that in the due time everything would be well.

About the end of the third week, it became evident to the friends and physician that there might be cause for alarm. A thorough examination was therefore instituted ; the inner parietes of the womb were examined, and it was clearly ascertained that there was a rupture of the womb, and that its entire contents had escaped into the cavity of the abdomen. Prof. McKeen, of Topsham, a physician of high attainments and deserved reputation, was sent for. He fully concurred in the above statement of diagnosis, but owing to the weak and almost lifeless condition of patient, that part of the Cæsarean operation which was necessary for the removal of the dead foetus was

not considered prudent, but as only tending to a more speedily fatal issue. Such means were resorted to as would tend to an outward suppuration, for the removal of the foetus, by application of warm fomentations. This was not effected, and the patient has endured until the present time, without much medical treatment, except of a palliating nature. About six weeks after she took her bed, she passed, through the vagina, several bones of the upper and lower extremities of a foetus, and a few, subsequently, in the same way.

My acquaintance with the patient commenced five weeks since. Some time previous to this, she had been able to ride several miles, for the purpose of visiting a friend, but has ever since been growing worse. There has been for the past five weeks, perhaps previously, a constant operation from the bowels, of offensive matter, very little of it being faeculent. The lower extremities have been œdematosus, the swelling ascending the body, and affecting the whole surface. The abdomen has been very full, protruding with flatus, constantly emitting a loud gurgling sound, giving occasion to severe pain, followed by syncope and a desire to vomit. The pulse has been hurried and scarcely perceptible; the mind has been perfectly clear and strong. Such were the last general symptoms, when death, perhaps fortunately, closed the scene. During the past twenty months she has been visited by nearly all the physicians in the vicinity. These visits resulted in conflicting opinions, in regard to the cause and result.

To-day I was called upon to make the autopsy, assisted by Drs. Baxter of Warren, and Bliss of Waldoboro', physicians of long experience and deserved reputation. Externally—the parietes of the abdomen were much distended; an unusual fulness in the left side, with blue appearance of the cuticle; body not much emaciated. I made an incision from the ensiform cartilage to the symphysis pubis, and lateral incisions, displaying at once the contents of the abdomen. The stomach peritoneum and intestines presented a blue appearance, and were overloaded with flatus. We carefully removed the stomach and small intestines, frequently meeting with unnatural adhesions. We also removed the large intestines, to a point or section in the sigmoid flexure of the colon, which we found closely adhering to the left side, and passed a ligature around the intestine a few inches above the adhesion. Thus everything was removed but the parts more directly implicated. From manipulations, and observing a small piece of bone protruding from a slightly-gangrenous section of the intestine, it was apparent that the bony remains of the foetus were confined within the walls of the colon, near the ligature last described. From this point, below the ligature, there were many and strong bands of adhesion passing from the flexure to the left parietes of the abdomen, to a section lateral from the umbilicus towards the spine. In dividing these bands, we found that they held the intestine firmly to the inner walls of the abdomen, bringing the corresponding parts in

a close proximity. Further observation clearly demonstrated, that a section of a diameter of four and a half inches, by actual measurement, of the inner parietes of the abdomen, was in contiguity with the mucous membrane of the intestine, occupying the place of a section of the same size which had sloughed away, and thus serving as one of the sides of the intestine. This kept the faeces and contents of the bowel from passing into the cavity of the abdomen ; for in separating the adhesions, the intestine proper was separated from one of its sides, for a space of several inches, till the continuity was made whole by the intestine itself. This portion of the intestine contained the cranium, chest, and most of the bones of the foetus. As a guide in dissection, I passed a catheter through the vagina, which immediately made its appearance through the original rupture of the uterus made twenty months ago—which in the contracted uterus was about three quarters of an inch in length. The rupture was at the left upper angle of the uterus, near the origin of the left Fallopian tube. The uterus was of usual size, of healthy appearance, except around the margin of the rupture. A lateral displacement was observed, caused by unnatural adhesions. The left Fallopian tube seemed to be withered, either the result of the rupture or of subsequent decomposition.

All the parts in the neighborhood of the uterus gave sufficient evidence of a terrible accident. It seems apparent that there was originally a rupture of the uterus, probably caused by a violent muscular effort, in a stooping position, everything being favorable for such a result. The womb powerfully contracted, and forced the foetus into the abdomen ; through the same opening all the contents of the womb made their escape, for there never was any flowing. The remains of the foetus, which were not decomposed, lying in close juxtaposition to the colon, in process of time caused its ulceration, until the whole mass was received within its calibre ; while nature, by a reparatory process, was forming suitable bands, sending them to the parietes of the abdomen, and then, by a singular method, restoring the continuity of the intestine. This may seem strange, but I think that there are a sufficient number of cases establishing the above statement. If not, I have all the parts which will sufficiently demonstrate it ; to wit, a section of the intestine, with the mass of bones *in situ*, unmoved ; also that portion of the integument of the abdomen which originally formed the contiguity, and made the intestine impervious only through the natural outlet. Nature finished this great undertaking ; but owing to the mass of foreign matter which had obtruded itself into the bowels, there was an inseparable barrier to the proper and sufficient performance of the peristaltic action of the intestine, and thus the mass was obliged to lay, only permitting the more liquid parts of the excremential substance to pass through their natural passage. My opinion is, that ulceration *frequently* caused an opening from the intestine into the abdomen, and as often nature would close it up.

for feculent matter has often sought a passage through the vagina. The large intestines were very much distended. The colon, where the accumulation of bone lay, had become a sac, nearly as large as a quart bowl. We took from the sac, or intestine, plum stones, which must have lodged there months ago. There has been an unimpeded passage from the abdomen through the womb, which has never been closed. I was told by the deceased, that "barrels would not contain the amount of substance that had escaped through this outlet," much of it of the most offensive character. If seems probable, if the parts of the foetus which were found in the intestine had admitted of the same early decomposition as the soft parts, the deceased might have survived; or if the intestine had admitted of the passage of the bones, the same favorable result would have been effected.

Without casting any reflection upon those who had the early management of this case, it certainly teaches all physicians the importance of making an early and sufficient examination, as it is probable that an early operation, in such a case, might be attended with a favorable result.

We learn from the case, that the womb may be ruptured from a slight cause; and what seems wonderful, that a foreign substance, of great magnitude, can remain within the parietes of the abdomen, much larger than the natural calibre of the large intestine, and finally be received within its walls, without producing death. Certainly nature here, as every where else, speaks design and intelligence, in adapting itself to prolong human existence. We learn, also, the extent of human endurance. In the most desperate cases, the skill and courage of the accoucheur should never flag; for with a good degree of caution, well-directed means, even of a heroic character, may bring about a favorable issue.

I have already detailed the principal facts in this case; and if I have made myself understood, I have answered the object of my communication.

The patient in this case was an individual of *superior* mental and physical endowments. Through a long and anxious confinement, suffering the most excruciating pains, she was never known to repine. While nature struggled, by a process of reparation, to restore the system to its wonted vigor, yielding its claim with a tenacity almost inconceivable, the mind remained unclouded throughout, and was strong and vigorous to the last moment. She made suitable preparations for her own autopsy, in order that, to use her own language expressed to me, "humanity might receive some advantage from the sacrifice and misery she had undergone."—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

Waldoboro', Me., Oct. 27th, 1854.

TREATMENT OF ANTEVERSION OF THE UTERUS.

BY MRS. R. B. GLEASON, M. D.

Miss ——, aged 17, came to our Water Cure, and placed herself under our care. Most of her life had been spent in school, and the last three years at a seminary in the city of —, which the bad state of her health obliged her to leave. For the last two years, the list of her physical ills had stood thus: Obstinate constipation, passing often a week without an evacuation, unless she took aperient; and in either case, each dejection was attended with so much difficulty and pain as to quite prostrate her strength, and oblige her to lie down and rest for a time. Had too frequent and painful menstruation, leucorrhœa of an acrid character, and so much swelling and soreness of the vulva, that riding, walking, and even sitting, caused her much discomfort at times. In addition to these, she complained of "bearing down pains," and supposed she had prolapsus uteri.

Thinking the last mentioned difficulty to be the prime cause of the others, I endeavored to make an examination by taxis, but found it impossible to do so. The vaginal passage was inflamed, and so swollen as to be quite closed, and so painfully sensitive on pressure as to make the introduction of the index finger impossible. Finding we could not get at the precise cause, we proceeded to treat symptoms as best we could. Gave her a general bath of 65 in the morning, and some half dozen sitz baths at 65 of five minutes duration during the day. Well pulverized ice laid in a linen cloth was kept upon the external genitals for the space of an hour twice per day, and a wet linen compress worn during the night.

She was ordered to frequently inject water into the vagina and rectum, but on trial declared it impossible to do so, so exceedingly sensitive were both; but by means of a delicate ivory tube, well oiled, we succeeded in accomplishing both, without increasing the irritation.

An enema of half a pint of cold water was given three times per day to give tone to the rectum, and obviate the heat and dryness there existing. Water was also often thrown into the vagina when lying down, so as to be retained for a time. In one week the swelling of the labia majora and minora was subdued; but their lining membrane was still much inflamed. It was then carefully brushed with a solution of nitrate of silver, and a small quantity thrown into the vagina once in two days. When another week had passed, I was able to make a vaginal examination without much discomfort to the patient. Found the bladder pressed downward, forming a tumor, the rectum enormously distended with faeces, she not having taken the enema that morning; but the uterus which we supposed *prolapsed* was not to be found.

A free evacuation from the bowels was then secured, and several examinations made—the patient assuming those various positions

which could favor the descent of the missing organ; but it was nowhere to be found. I might have concluded that it was wanting, had she not menstruated. Now came the query, had she anteversion or retroversion of the uterus? And how had it attained so elevated a position? Such a case was passing strange in these latter days, when the dress of woman is so admirably calculated to force even the abdominal viscera into the pelvic cavity. In the days of our grandmothers, prolapsus uteri was unknown, save among those who were *greatly reduced* by too frequent child-bearing and *excessive* labor, and rarely even then; now it is common among young ladies yet in their teens.

But to the case in point. With the patient there seemed to be no *lack* of alvine secretions, but a *lack* of power to expel them; hence the impacted condition of the rectum which I found, and which had existed much of the time for the last two years, according to the patient's account of herself.

This circumstance suggested the idea that a distended rectum, might have thrown the fundus of the uterus forward upon the bladder. To this was added the fact that for the last two years she had been unable to retain but a small amount of urine, having almost incessant desire to micturate. The present form of the bladder was also indicative of pressure on its upper portion. So much presumptive evidence in favor of anteversion, and as no better could be obtained, was guided by that.

Commenced kneading the lower portion of the abdomen, and rubbing, pressing upward and backward for a half hour each day, whilst the patient was lying on her back. Charged her to allow no fœces to remain in the rectum, and retain as much urine as possible at a time. Within a few days was able to feel the body of the uterus with the end of the index finger, and soon after distinguished the os uteri looking backward, and the fundus forward. After a little time by means of a tube and piston, was able to introduce a soft fine sponge between the neck of the uterus and rectum, thus holding it in its normal position. This was removed, cleansed, and replaced daily. The manipulations and other treatment above mentioned, was continued some weeks, till she had no further need of them. Menses less frequent, and less painful, leucorrhœa ceased, constipation overcome, all morbid sensitiveness and inflammation subdued, and the uterus no longer lying transversely, but suspended in its natural position.

Previous to her coming to our "Cure," she had been for many months under the care of an Allopathic physician, and like the woman in Scripture, "was nothing bettered but had rather grown worse." I say not this to reflect on his medical skill. From the relationship of the sexes, only an indefinite or incorrect idea is often obtained as to the true condition of things in cases of such *extreme delicacy* as this.

The patient may try to be frank, and the physician intend to be thorough in his examination of symptoms, but, between the embarrassment of the former, and the wish of the latter to spare his young and sensitive patient unnecessary mortification, many an error in diagnosis ensues. Did women understand better their peculiar organization, the diseases to which they are liable, and the terms to be employed in speaking of them, it would spare both practitioner and patient a vast amount of perplexity, and the latter much pain. Then too, such is the reluctance of many of them to mention a class of their most troublesome ills, that the delay to confide them to their physician, till what perhaps at *first* might have been easily remedied, has now become incurable.—*Syracuse Medical and Surgical Journal.*

OUR FIRST TRIAL OF THE TINCTURE OF GELSEMINUM.

ON or about the tenth of October, there came under my professional care, a female patient, aged twenty-three years, who was of lymphatic temperament and delicate constitution. Her disease was biliary fever, of the congestive type, which I inferred was—under the circumstances—likely to prove obstinate. After prescribing for her for three days, with much better success than I at first expected—in consequence of a mistake in the druggist who put up her medicine—a copious colliquative diarrhoea, and great irritation of bowels ensued, which rapidly exhausted the vitality of her system, and brought on a typhoid fever, which we in vain labored to remove. After almost every hope was extinguished, and counsel said she must die, we determined to try the gelseminum in connection with the quinia. Fifteen drops of the tr. with two grains of quinine, and one of capsicum, were administered every two hours with the most beneficial effect; the nervous jerking and twitching, delirium and fever rapidly disappeared, the skin became cool and moist, the parched tongue resumed its natural appearance, and “tired nature’s sweet restorer, balmy sleep,” to which she had for fifteen days been a stranger, once more returned.

It is true that the medicine was administered in combination, which prevented the certain knowledge that these good effects were wholly the result of the gelseminum; but the quinine, &c., had been previously administered, without any improvement in the symptoms; but on the contrary, it seemed to aggravate and increase the irritation and delirium. No other medicine was given at the same time except when constipation required, when the following pill was prescribed:

R. Leptandrin, ten grains; Podophyllin, five grains; Extract of Rhubarb a sufficient quantity to form the whole into ten pills. Dose: one, night and morning until an aperient effect was produced.

During the exhibition of the remedy, the patient frequently complained of "blindness" or dimness of vision, but I could discover no injury nor the least unpleasant or injurious effects that followed, on the contrary a very manifest improvement immediately commenced, and continued without any interruption until the patient was fairly convalescent.

The effects of this medicine upon the system, are certainly peculiar, and new to the most scientific and practical therapeutist. That these are the result of relaxation, I do not doubt, but the muscular system does not seem to partake in the least degree of this effect. The whole power of the remedy seems to be exerted upon the nervous structure, and we think it particularly adapted to the treatment of those forms of disease in which this structure is mainly involved. *It is a nervous relaxant*, and we believe a valuable *innocuous* remedy. If future and more extensive experience leads us to doubt this, or change our opinion of the remedy, our readers shall know it.—*Medical Reformer.*

BODY AND MIND—THEIR INFLUENCE ON EACH OTHER.

THERE are two extremes of bodily condition induced by the habits of those who represent them. The first is observed in the persons of those who are raised from childhood to severe daily toil, and hard plodding labor from the time they are large enough to perform labor at all, until they arrive at the meridian of life without being instructed in a knowledge of the physical powers and capabilities of the human system, with very limited development of their minds, the great quickening and controlling influence of personal bearing and demeanor. This class has been accustomed to heavy lifting and hard work beyond their healthy muscular power, and to overdoing, while their bodies were in the process of development, as well as after they became matured. Hence, they appear stiff-jointed and awkward in their movements, and their graceful carriage is destroyed. Instead of laboring ten hours a day in such a manner as their muscular strength would allow and maintain its natural tone and elasticity, they have overtaxed and subdued its natural susceptibility, and readiness to free and easy action.

The second extreme is observed in the literary man, and all others who have been brought up in strictly sedentary habits. They have exercised their muscles so little that they have become relaxed and flaccid and their arms and legs loosely bag about as the law of gravity dictates. Their muscles, unaccustomed to active and energetic action, have not power to perform the service the Great Designer intended they should accomplish.

The first class of persons mentioned, overworked their muscles and the consequence is a degree of inflexibility. The second class exercises them so little that they never assume their vigor, strength or tone at all, and consequently are feeble and inefficient. The day laborer takes on board so large a cargo and sinks his vessel so deep that it ploughs *strait* ahead, little heeding the rudder. The literary man neglects to take even enough for *ballast*, and consequently his vessel makes most ungainly lunges.

Actual daily labor of a few hours at least, is indispensable to the full developement of the bodily powers, and perfection of manly proportions. It is necessary to sustain the strength and elasticity of muscular motion in manhood and maturer years. Instead of making a person stiff-jointed, it is the very thing to lubricate his joints.—Instead of making him awkward in his movements, it subjects his muscles to the control of volition and enables him to govern their movements perfectly. Instead of destroying easy, natural motions, it legitimately produces them. Awkwardness of motion results from imperfect control of the muscles; this state of the system is produced mainly by two causes:—*First*—too much muscular exertion; and *Second*—too little. Plodding day laborers illustrate the former, and literary men in general, the latter.

It is by free and thorough exercise alone, that we acquire a full and easy control of the various muscles of voluntary motion, and thus become enabled to assume at pleasure those attitudes, and to perform those flexures and gestures with perfect ease, which contribute to the perfect dignity and grace of man. Hence suitable manual labor and free active exercise, is as necessary for personal grace and dignity, as it is for agility and strength. And it is doubtless more owing to the want of proper exercise than to anything else, that so many students and professional men are actually more awkward and uncouth than the most hard working laborer.

A suitable amount of exercise and manual labor, is indispensable to develope the full strength of the mind as well as the body. Our country has been fruitful in examples of the influence which early agricultural and mechanical pursuits have had in developing the mental powers, and qualifying men for important enterprises and deeds of noble daring. Nothing has appeared to make the mind so acute, fruitful in expedients, decisive, persevering, and firm in purpose, as these employments; and this has evidently been from the influence they have had in expanding and perfecting the physical and moral powers. Who for a moment doubts that it was the hardships, toil and embarrassments of the times that brought out and developed the *great men* of our American revolution, and produced a noble race who, under God, have achieved all we now enjoy which is valuable of liberty, ability and excellence? History is richly embellished with their deeds of noble daring, endurance and achievement, while the whole world has been awed into respect and inspired

with admiration. Compare with these illustrious men, the generation of mis-called gentlemen and dandies which ease and affluence unaccompanied with labor and exercise, is fast producing, and a small degree of solace is derived from the picture.

Better, infinitely, that the bar, the bench, the halls of legislation, the medical profession and the pulpit, should be filled with men careless of their personal appearance, but whose firm set frames and brawny complexions indicate their sex, and whose original minds poise themselves upon their own centers, rather than be desecrated by mincing things of powder and perfumery, nauseous specimens of diluted manhood, scribbling sentimentality in albums, and lisping insipidity. Let "the sacramental host" be led on to victory by sturdy men in homespun, but who have over-mastering intellects and lofty daring, rather than be officered by Knights of the reticule, valorous in onset upon the cologne bottles, and prodigies of prowess among sprigs of rosemary.

The practical working men and women are the dependence, independence and glory of our country. Every man and woman is in duty bound to pursue a course of habits which all may safely copy. All are also in duty bound to apply themselves to some *producing* business which will not only benefit themselves mentally, morally and physically, but add essentially to the mind, moral worth, dignity and wealth of our nation, which is made up of individual knowledge, intelligence, industry and enterprise. Mind and body, fully and equally developed, made healthful and vigorous by well-directed industrial pursuits, form the only basis of individual and national greatness.—*Syracuse Medical and Surgical Journal.*

MEDICAL QUACKERY.

ADDISON tells us of a Parisian quack who had a boy walking before him, publishing, with a shrill voice, "my father cures all sorts of distempers;" to which the quack doctor added, in a grave manner "the child speaks truly." We have been reminded of this incident by the manner in which some of our itinerant quacks of the present day manage to gull the community. One of these ignorant pretenders, a few months since, who styled himself an analytic physician, advertised, not only to cure all forms of disease, but to tell every symptom and "describe the complaints without a single word of information from the patient, by a simple examination of the tongue and pulse—advice gratis." A robust healthy friend of ours, who had seldom been sick a day in his life, and who was then in perfect vigor, thought he would try the skill of this doctor. He accordingly paid him a visit and asked him if he could do anything for his case. After an examination of his tongue, he pronounced him in a critical state and prescribed *seven dollars* worth of medicine. When the

patient expressed a wish to wait awhile before he tried his remedies, the doctor remarked, that there was danger in delay, as his case required immediate attention. This stratagem showed up the ignorance of this erratic doctor; and if the community would thus try the skill of these pretenders they would find them wanting.

Against quacks and quackery we have always raised our voice, and to empiricism, in any form, we hope we shall always be merciless, whether it drag out a precarious existence in obscurity or rear its head in high places. It is this empiricism which has long prevented medicine from holding a place in the exact sciences; it is only a part of that empiricism which has abased our profession and the medical practitioners below the rank which they ought to hold in the estimation of the public. There is no shame in being ignorant of many truths—the knowledge of which would light up with brilliant effulgence our onward career of practice; no moral degradation in knowing and acknowledging that we know but little: but there is both shame and moral degradation in the petty, tricky, mean acts, by which a medical practice is too often acquired—in the vain, shallow artifices by which the same practice is maintained, and the venal mercantile manner in which it is conducted. These itinerant doctors are not regularly educated physicians, and the profession of medicine is not responsible for their acts; but it becomes us to frown upon such quackery, and to show the community that it is all pretension. It becomes us to put our face like flint against the first approach to empiricism and to adhere more closely to those principles which we have proved to be efficient in the healing process.

It has been remarked, that, “in the present order of things, it is easier to cheat a man out of his life than a shilling, and almost impossible to punish the offender.” This is true; for the people shut their eyes and take everything upon trust that is administered by any pretender to medicine, or any vendor of poisons, without venturing to inquire a reason for any part of their conduct. Implicit faith, every where else the object of ridicule, is here sacred.

Thus, these quacks sport with the lives of a credulous public, and this credulity proves an inexhaustible source for all such as resolve to levy contributions on it. Mankind are fond of mystery, and it is often more congenial with a sick man’s mind to expect relief from the occult qualities of medicine than from its sensible virtues. Hence, in a great measure, arises the success of many boasted secret remedies, which, when compounded by a Botanic physician, entirely lose their efficacy.

It has been well observed, that the less we know of the material world the more extensive we suppose our acquaintance to be with the world of spirits; and there can be no doubt, that, from the ignorance of the operations of nature and of the laws of the animal economy, has originated that predilection for superstitious remedies, which, in every age, has constituted so prominent a feature in the character of the people.

The great mass of community have not leisure nor inclination to reason ; credulity, of course, is more convenient for them than the researches necessary for the investigation of truth. The nostrum vender and the empiric of the present age, know very well how to turn this credulity to their account, and there are those now who may be reckoned even above the pretender, who are busy in making capital out of the startling and wonderful prescience of the mesmerist and the psychological subject.—*Bot. Journal.*

Original Communications.

CUTANEOUS DISEASES.

BY PROF. I. M. COMINGS.

Equinia, Glanders.—This form of disease was not known to attack the human subject till within a few years, neither was it supposed that it could be communicated from the horse ; but it has now been fully proved that such is the case ; hence the name *equinia*, for the same reason that cow pock has been called *vaccinia*. It may occur as true glanders, characterized primarily by ulcerations of the nostrils. In this case it may be styled *equinia catarrhalis*, and when we have tumors in various parts, as *equinia apostematos*. It may be either acute or chronic.

According to the best veterinarians, it is contagious, but not infectious ; it is therefore only communicated by contact with the diseased secretion from the mucus membrane of the nostrils in glandered horses, or the pus produced in tumors in other parts.

After inoculation of glanderous matter, a period of from two to eight days or more elapses before the occurrence of any symptoms. At the end of this time the evidences of local irritation appear at the injured part ; its extension follows as is proved by the condition of the neighboring lymphatic glands and vessels, and by general febrile phenomena.

The duration of acute and chronic equinia, is very various. In the former, death may occur in a few days ; but in the greater number life has been prolonged beyond the twelfth day, and in some cases the thirtieth. The chronic variety may last a month only, or from five to ten months, and then death follows.

Diagnosis.—M. Rayer distinguishes three varieties of the acute form of this affection : the pustular, the gangrenous and the pustula-gangrenous. In some cases, the most striking phenomena consists of a pustular cutaneous eruption, a thick and glutinous nasal discharge, and a typhoid aspect. In others the symptoms of nasal lesion are obscure, while the external characteristics predominate. Again, we have pains in the limbs, purulent deposition in various parts of the body, and inflammation of the lymphatic vessels and

glands, form, in the outset, the most striking features of another set of cases, still more strictly analogous in character to the acute or fancy-glanders of the horse. Lastly, there are others more violent and promptly fatal, in which all these morbid changes and symptoms appear rapidly at once, a few days after the primary phenomena.

Symptoms.—This disease ordinarily presents the following phenomena in its progress, when it occurs in the acute form. Articular or muscular pains, in some cases, simulating rheumatism, followed by subcutaneous, circumscribed, painful swellings ; which either undergo superficial mortification, or are converted into abscesses, containing either real or sanguous pus ; a yellowish, viscous, nasal discharge, of limited quantity, issuing, in the great majority of cases, from both nares, and first observed from the fourth to the sixteenth day ; accompanied, in some instances, by a muilar excretion from the mouth or eyelids ; occasional tumefaction of the nose and adjoining parts, followed by gangrene, in one-eighth of the cases in the old school treatment. In very rare cases we have swelling of the submaxillary lymphatic glands, or depositions of pus therein, and pretty frequently, inflammation of the throat and tonsils ; a peculiar pustular eruption, differing from all varieties hitherto observed, namely, gangrenous bullæ appearing on the face, arms, thighs and anterior surface of the trunk, and sometimes preceded or accompanied by profuse foeted sweats ; a rapid and full pulse at the outset, subsequently weak, compressible and sometimes intermittent, and unless we give relief, the pulse becomes extremely small and frequent ; diarrhoea, with watery stools of a cadaverous smell and occasionally containing dark colored blood ; dental sordes ; dry brown tongue, tympanitic abdomen, with hardly any abdominal tenderness ; thirst in a few cases, difficult deglutition, occasional vomiting, especially towards the close ; no *typhoid muculae* on the surface ; violent cerebral symptoms, terminating in delirium, coma and death.

The symptoms in the chronic form of this affection are somewhat different, the nasal membrane is not affected at first, but may subsequently become implicated. Small tumors gradually appear about the face and other parts of the body. These break and produce an unhealthy discharge ; and are attended or followed by purulent collections in the joints or various parts of the body. This form may terminate fatally, but there have been more cases of recovery than of the acute ; in fact, there is not on record, I believe, a single case of recovery from acute glanders.

Treatment.—Notwithstanding the invariable mortality that has attended the treatment of acute glanders, we still believe it to be a curable disease, by strict physio-medical remedies.

The most thorough cleansing of the system with the lobelia emetics and vapor bath, is indicated, as well as the use of alteratives and discutient washes. I can but look upon the mortality which has attended this disease to be mainly a consequent of bleeding, purging,

mercurial frictions and other depletive *remedies* that have been used.

We should treat this form of disease on the same general plan that we have recommended for others that are caused by some specific virus, or poison introduced into the system.

The chlorides have been used with good effects in some cases, and the kreosote in chronic cases has been successful. The dose has been one minim of kreosote to an ounce of water, administered both internally and for washes. From one to three minims may be administered daily.

To sum up the treatment in one expression, we would say, Thomsonian courses of medicine, frequent and long continued. These will cure this disease if any thing will. We have never seen a case, but have no doubt of the success of this treatment, with tonics, and the usual collateral agents used by medical reformers.

FRAMBOESIA, YAWS.

This is called from the French *framboise*, a raspberry, from its resemblance to that fruit. It is a disease indigenous in Africa, and hence it is only seen among our negroes in the South, and especially among the native Africans. We have seen three cases, and all were on natives of Africa. It is characterized by the evolution of small, red tuberculous tumors, generally distinct from each other at their summit, but connected by their base, and quite similar to the raspberry or mulberry.

Persons of all ages may be attacked. It is contagious, and is propagated by the contagion of the matter discharged from the corruption. It sometimes appears spontaneously. Filth, misery, unwholesome food, and living in damp dwellings, are its most evident exciting causes. Some give it a venereal origin, and there is so much resemblance to the syphilitic tuberculous eruption, as to give some color to this idea.

It begins by solid elevations of a papular nature, which seem seated in the substance of the dermis; these frequently ulcerate and discharge a foetid ichor, which forms thick crusts. One of the tuberculations generally acquires much larger dimensions than the others, and afterwards forms a foul and sloughy ulcer which the negroes call the "mama yam."

Treatment.—There is no peculiarity in the treatment of this form of disease, from that of lupus and elephantiani. The same course will apply to this, that we have recommended for those.

We shall advise moderately nutritious diet, pure air, proper clothing, perfect cleanliness, the exhibition of Sarsaparilla and other alteratives. The only case we ever treated was an old African, more to see what our remedies could do, than from any hope of effecting a cure. It was astonishing to see the happy effect of our poultices and alterative treatment. Although the old man died, yet the case manifested such marked improvement, that we should now

have the greatest confidence in the same course, on a young subject and before the disease had made such extensive inroads upon the constitution.

The different preparations of iodine are said to be indicated in this disease.

Editorial.

POLICY OF THE WORCESTER MEDICAL INSTITUTE.

THE following remarks we published in the N. Eng. Medical and Surgical Journal of September last, and as they have met with some attention from the Worcester Journal of Medicine, we will copy them in order that those of our readers who are acquainted with the affairs of this College, may judge of the truth and fairness of our remarks. As we have replied to the Worcester Journal in the same paper, where the article first appeared, it is not necessary that we should add anything here, only to remark that we deprecate all controversy, and did not intend to excite the Homœopathic editor so much, as our article seemed to indicate.

During the past four years, we have been a silent spectator of the progress of Medical Reform in New England. Previous to that time, we had taken some little interest in the cause of truth, and the advancement of the Worcester Medical Institution. Our connection with it from its commencement, and the aid we rendered during its infancy, can be best told by the students who attended during that period. *But the unfortunate variance which happened between Prof. Newton and ourselves, and the change of policy consequent upon that event which took place in the Worcester College,* caused us at once to withdraw our aid and to keep perfectly neutral in reference to its concerns, never opposing it, though we might have done so with some propriety, for we saw at once, and made the prediction, that it would become involved in difficulties, and lose the confidence of the Reformed profession.

It is just for us to say however, that before the death of Prof. Newton, he began to see the error of this course, and especially in reference to his treatment of us. He found out that the author of the base falsehoods fabricated against us, and which he once believed true, were but the offspring of a selfish and depraved mind; only three weeks before the lamented Newton's death, on his return from the Philadelphia Convention, he called on us at the Metropolitan Medical College, manifested his former interest in our success, and wished us God speed in our efforts for the advancement of Medical Reform in this city, stating that this was the locality for a Medical College. This voluntary interview with Prof. Newton, at this period and after all that had passed between us, and considering the doctor's natural disposition, was

conclusive evidence to our mind that he was willing to concede that he had been deceived in reference to the writer, and was now willing to make the *amende honorable*. This opinion has been made sure, since his death, from what has been told us by many confidential friends of Dr. N., and from the fact that he found out the character of his late colleague.

No one was *better* acquainted with Dr. Newton than we were. Four years his pupil in a literary College, and four years intimately associated with him in teaching medicine, besides a most friendly and confidential correspondence for six or eight years, gave the best opportunity of knowing the peculiar characteristics of the Professor in all the relations of life.

It is now perfectly consistent, as well as just, that we should vindicate our position, and show that our policy was a prudent one, and such as would have resulted in the best interests of the institution.

The board of Trustees are all well aware of the opposition we made to the expenditure of so much in building, which we said would involve the body and prove injurious to the College; they are also aware how strenuously we advocated the occupation of the upper story of one of the finest buildings just then being erected in the city, and for the 1000 dollars which we then had, the Institution could have had far better accommodations than it has yet had, in the present building. We will not enlarge on this point, for it is now proved, that this would have been the best policy.

The friends of Medical Reform in N. England were congratulated on our retirement from the professorship of Theory and Practice, that the Institution was now relieved of "the last relict of *Thomsonism*," and that it would no longer be hindered in its course by that "low and objectionable practice" which had been so injurious to its interests; but alas for the times, it was found that the College did not receive the support of its friends so heartily, and that it has been failing ever since. On the other hand it was found that the *very College* which was pleased to secure the services of this very professor who taught this "objectionable Thomsonism," doubled its students, and is now the most flourishing Reformed College in the United States. Not only so, this same advocate of "low and *objectionable Thomsonism*" is placed at the head of the Metropolitan Medical College, which has so far met with the most abundant success, and bids fair to rival all others.

It has been proved too, that the great body of medical reformers are disposed to consider "Thomsonism" as worthy of a place among the reforms of the day. That they are unwilling to let a small clique of *pseudo reformers* usurp the places of those old and tried men who have borne the burden and heat of the day. It is not right that these *mongrels* should monopolize all the honors and emoluments accruing from the success which has followed the labors of these pioneers in Medical Reform.

It will thus be seen that the policy which has governed the Worcester Institution for the past four years, and especially since the death of its President, whom we have reason to believe was beginning to see the tendency of his policy, has not been such as to secure it friends or prosperity.

If that same course is pursued, which has proved itself so disastrous in Eclectic Colleges of Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky and New York; Worcester will share their fate and justly too, for her time-serving policy, and for not adhering to those ancient landmarks which will guide to ultimate success.

QUACKERY.

THE following playful remarks we quote from the *Sunday Courier* of this city, they cut pretty well into the *exclusiveness* of the "*regular medical faculty*." It has been but a few years, since such remarks would have been tolerated in a public print, and it is a matter of congratulation to the friends of Medical Reform that there are those who wield power in the community, that can thus hold up the mirror to the "*exclusives*."

QUACK, QUACK, QUACK.—The allopathic physicians of New York, who can boast of regular diplomas, had their annual feed at the Astor House on Wednesday night, and a highly professional and ghastly feed it was. If Judge Edmonds had been present, he probably would have seen the ghosts of all their dead patients, hovering round the chairs of these regular practitioners, in what is facetiously called the healing art. The occasion of the feed was the annual meeting of the New York Society, for the relief of widows and orphans of medical men. The relief experienced by the widows and orphans, from one or two hundred hungry doctors eating a ten dollar dinner, we think must be about equal to the relief which many of the patients of these regulars receive from their prescriptions. The President of the feed was the President of the Society, Dr. Isaac Wood, who had for his aid and supporters two D. D.'s, Potts and Ferris. Mr. Peter Cooper, the glue manufacturer, who has not been very successful in his attempt to reform our City Government, was present as a guest. The ornamental dishes on the table were mostly of a professional form, being in the shape of pestles and mortars, and other objects pleasantly suggestive of the character of the convives.

Our friend Dr. Turner, the great chronothermalist, whom we did not see among the guests, will be happy to learn that no blood was drawn on the occasion; and our friends of the Hahnemann school of practice, not one of whom did we note at the table, will also be happy to be made acquainted with the encouraging fact, that these allopaths dealt out their doses of wit

and humor with an extreme degree of dilution, which would have satisfied the most exacting disciple of the infinitesimal school of practice. Physicians, we have been told, are extremely funny and genial in the dissecting room, but they do not cut up very fat at the festive board. They evidently feel themselves out of their element when discussing a diagnosis in the dining room of the Astor House. But, let us not speak lightly of our medical dignitaries: if they met at the Astor House to feed, their ostensible object was charity, and charity covers a multitude of sins. The society of the medical faculty of this city, for the benefit of the widows and orphans of the members of their profession, has been in existence but two years, and, in that brief time, they have accumulated a very respectable fund.

ALLOPATHIC INSTRUCTION.

A few weeks since we received a letter from an esteemed friend, who was an early graduate of the Worcester Institution, and who has preserved his integrity as a practitioner of Reformed Medicine. In this letter, he makes a few remarks which we feel may not be altogether out of place to quote just at this time. He writes as follows: "There is one thing that pains me much, and that is, to see Physicians who ought to be ornaments to the Reformed Practice, contenting themselves, (or seeming to do so) with the same success as their Allopathic brethren, or a very little better. This ought not to be, and one thing more ought not to be countenanced by that part of the community who believe in the principles of Medical Reform, and that is for a Reformed Practitioner to attend lectures in Allopathic Institutions, to go there to finish their Medical education. We might as well send our young men in the ministry, to a Catholic College to be instructed in the gospel; or our wives and daughters to a Nunnery, to fit them for good housewives. It does not surprise me to hear of their ill success: Who can handle coals of fire and not be burned?"

There is some sound sense in these remarks, and we have in the course pursued by some of our young men the reason of this halfway, mixed mongrel practice which has been so detrimental to the cause of Medical Reform. There is now no necessity for seeking instruction from the Old School Colleges, since we not only have Schools of our own, but we have *the same* advantages and facilities that have so long been the boast of the old profession.

SCIENTIFIC.—A lady called on a Botanic Physician not long since, having a little girl with her for whom she wished him to prescribe; and on being interrogated as to the disease of the child, replied, that about a year since the little girl had the dysentery and Dr. H., an allopath, attended her about three weeks, when he stated that the dysentery "had fallen into her legs

and he could do no more for her." On examination it appeared the child had been dosed with that deadly scourge, *Calomel*, until her system had become so impregnated with it that she was covered with putrid sores, and her legs were literally filled like "jars of quicksilver," and her ankles swollen to twice their natural size.

CHLOROFORM AND ETHER—THEIR USE AND ABUSE.

THE recent trial and conviction of Dr. Beale of Philadelphia, for administering Chloroform to a young lady, and taking improper liberties with her person while under its influence, has excited considerable discussion among dentists and medical men as to the propriety of administering these subtle agents. The following communication on the subject, which we copy from a late number of the New York Herald, will, we think, be of interest to our readers :

"Curiosity alone led me to attend the meeting, because I thought non-medical experience of non medically educated dentists would offer some fun for my enjoyment. I was not disappointed, though I am compelled to say the details were of the most outrageous and disgusting nature. It was sought to show that persons placed under the influence of these subtle agents were subject to 'hallucinations' which view the reporters seem to accept as being fully established. A most dangerous position is here assured—dangerous for the female, because she might be subjected to, and have the grossest liberties taken with her, even to the violation of her person : and should she complain, the alternative she is to submit to, is to be laughed at, as a person with too vivid an imagination, or rest content as the victim of 'hallucination.' On the other hand, the dentist may be innocently injured from concomitant circumstances, which I cannot name here. When these agents were first introduced to the notice of the profession, I carefully investigated the rationale of ether, and afterwards chloroform. Three years' practice and observation told me to discontinue their use. I found them to act differently on different constitutions and temperaments, and never acting twice in the same manner on the same person. I never found them to cause any violation of the laws of modesty in male or female. I found them always to act upon the mental faculties only by incoherent mutterings, hysterical excitements, and total obliviousness. In the majority of cases, they exhibited a consciousness of what I was doing, and with violence attempted to prevent me operating. After they had recovered from the immediate effects, such as pleasant or horrid visions, infernal noises and travelling in railroad cars, &c., they had lost all memory of the operation, and their own action to prevent it. Of the many cases I had under my care, I never found a single instance wherein hallucination—confused imagination—extended beyond the moment.

If hallucinations do exist, as my professional brethren attempted to make out, the administration of these agents only fortify my experience of their injurious effects upon the brain and the nervous system. For the three years I used them—now, thank God, ten years since—I feel assured, notwithstanding all my care, that no person ever inhaled them, that they were not more or less the sufferers from their effects. Three deaths, wherein I refused to administer these anaesthetic agents, took place after another dentist had done so. One of these victims was an intelligent, lovely boy, of about 14 years of age. The blue veins traversed his classical features as through a wax gauze, showing their course through his fair transparent skin. His was a face that seemed to draw one nearer to Heaven than to earth. I told him that chloroform would kill him. ‘No matter,’ he replied, ‘if it does, I must take it to have this tooth out.’ The dentist gave him chloroform, took out his tooth, and three days after haemorrhage from the lungs took place, and in six months consumption closed a premature grave over his lovely form. The second was that of a young lady. I told her the same as I told the lad; her reply was nearly the same, the result precisely the same, and still another lady, and still the same result. Dr. Russell, U. S. A., whom you knew, surgeon on Governor’s Island, experimented on himself, taking these agents internally. I urged him to desist, ‘that they would cause congestion of the lungs the first time he took cold.’ ‘No fear,’ replied the doctor. He took cold, and in twenty-four hours was dead, caused by congestion of the lungs. The late Dr. James A. Houston, your reporter, was injured by it. I have found these agents act first upon the heart and the arterial system, precisely as the heart and pulse act—as published—in culprits executed between mental and physical death; they act most powerfully as excitants, or debilitating the mucus membrane of the lungs, the stomach, the intestines, the womb, the bladder, &c., &c. They act upon the sensorium, the brain, the nervous centres, and the whole nervous system. They paralyze the vitality of the blood; they deprive it of its electric force. In short, they paralyze the whole animal system. How they may add to the bills of mortality, I, of course, cannot say, but I feel well assured that the use and the abuse of these agents add one-third more deaths of infants, which may be ascribed to these agents acting upon the heart and brain of these innocents still in the womb—that when they make their advent into this world, their breath for several days is redolent with its subtle effluvia. God breathed the breath of life into the nostrils of man; God in nature’s laboratory did not exhale a subtle, paralyzing, deadly gas to diffuse through the system of his own creation, made after the image of himself; no one of these are to be found in nature. Pure oxygenated blood from the mother’s heart, and the pure oxygenated air of the earth’s atmosphere, are God’s ele-

ments for the health, vigor, and life of his creation. There can exist but one apology for the administration of these singularly subtle agents. To prevent mental and physical sufferings of the afflicted, when submitted to the prolonged torture of the surgeon's knife. In the hospital or in the chamber, where organic disease is to be removed by surgery, they are proper—because the organic disease is gradually sapping the several systems of the animal organization which must end in the disorganization and the death of the whole, so that the shock to the whole animal organization by anaesthetic agents, whilst they prevent great physical suffering, are less injurious than the prolonged action of the disease and the remedy of the knife.

"Dentists have no apology for their use otherwise than to put money in their purse. After the 'experience' and the 'Revelations of the New York Dentists,' as you facetiously term them, I can only say that I most cordially coincide and endorse all your remarks. If only half that was stated be true, and I have reason to believe the whole truth was given—then it behooves fathers of families, mothers of daughters, brothers of sisters, husbands of wives—if these agents must be administered—then, I repeat, it behooves them all to have these operations, under the influence of chloroform or ether, performed in their own houses, in their own chambers, where, at least, an excuse of 'debility' or any other cause may be framed for hallucinations, and that which is ten times worse, the results of the experience of dentists. I freely say, that the scenes depicted of ladies under the influence of chloroform, and more especially ether, would or only could be found within the walls of a brothel. I can readily conceive how young unmarried dentists might, and no doubt do delight in these delectable 'hallucinations' of their female patients. But I really am at a loss to know why married men—dentists—with a family of daughters, should or could consent to see the fairest portion of human nature so degraded by their means. Sure am I that could it have been possible that mothers, sisters, or daughters could have read the 'revelations,' the utter degradation which was inflicted upon their sex, by the action of these agents, they would die rather than be held up as the mark, the jest, the amusement, and the pastime of any person, however great their sufferings may be. So satisfied am I of the injurious effects of chloroform and ether on phlothoric nervous persons, on the scorbutic, the phthisical, the sero-lymphatic and chlorotic temperaments that I consider it little short of morally murdering, besides degrading the victims of its exhibition. I consider, sir, that you will be securing a lasting benefit on society by following up this matter, as well as preserving many a virtuous, honest girl from mortification and degradation to end in a life of shame.

"A. C. CASTLE, M. D., SURGEON DENTIST.

"New York, Dec. 15, 1854."

SOUTHERN BOT. MED. COLLEGE.

WE are pleased to inform our readers that this College now has a class of *fifty-five* students, and others are expected. This class is not only very respectable in numbers, but is decidedly a superior one in all respects which make up what is desirable in a Medical Institution.

The College edifice is vastly improved since the fire, and the expenditure of about 1500 dollars for apparatus in the departments of Anatomy, Surgery, Physiology and Chemistry, added to what was saved from the conflagration, has placed this College far before all other Reformed Institutions in this country.

There is but little doubt that the Georgia Legislature will endow this College by a second appropriation at the next session. This is demanded by the increased popularity of the Reformed Medical Practice in the south, as well as the claims of justice, since the Old School College has received so much. We must place the Reformed Medical Profession in Georgia before any other State of which we are acquainted, and can but rejoice in the triumph of the truth, which is so universally acknowledged in the empire state of the South.

SURGEONS ON SHIPS.—Some of them are about as “small means” as ever aspired to the doctorate or gave adulterated drugs to an unfortunate sick man. We have met specimens who capitalized the first word in every line as if they were poets in their plain business notes, who spelled *medicine* with an *s* and put no *e* in their *blue pill*. Such “Surgeons” are picked up on the wharves on the other side of the Atlantic; no questions are asked them as to qualifications; they “doctor” the steerage passengers on their trip over for their passage, and harm none who let their stuff alone. Outrageous facts bearing upon this subject are before the public. The mortality at sea gives tokens of their uselessness. Their continuance is either a disgrace to the intelligence of our ship-owners, or a proof of their inhumanity.

There have been honorable exceptions to the common character of ship surgeons, and we see that in our steam-marine more are likely to be made. A reform is imperatively demanded by the wants of the emigrants and the interests of humanity. There is no where needed a more wise, firm, skilful or prudent surgeon than on board any ship that comes to our port heavily freighted with living beings.—*Times*.

Poisoning.—Dr. S. Robinson, who was a student of the celebrated Dr. Rush of Philadelphia, speaking of the use of poisons as medicines, says:

“It is astonishing and will remain a matter of astonishment to future ages,

that the rankest and most virulent poisons which the three physical kingdoms (animal, mineral and vegetable) afford, are considered the greatest remedial agents now in use and have been for the last fifty years. It would be a melancholy tale, if the millions who have perished by these deadly poisons could rise from their ashes to utter forth their doleful lamentations."

DYSPEPTIC PRECEPTS.

1. Take your food in large mouthfuls—say an inch cube or more.
2. Swallow these mouthfuls with the least possible chewing.
3. Pack them in, one after another, as fast as you can.
4. Take copious draughts of some liquid at your meals—whether soup, tea, coffee or milk. If milk, let it be very poor; if tea or coffee, put in little or no cream.

BLACKBERRY SYRUP.—The following formula is our favorite mode of using the Blackberry. We find it a mild but very efficient astringent, and it has a beautiful flavor that recommends it to children, even when they refuse every other medicine.

Take :

Blackberry root,	8 oz.
Rhubarb root,	1-4 oz.
Sumac leaves,	1-4 oz.
Oil of Cloves and Cinnamon, aa	4 drops.

The first three articles may be made into a pint of Syrup, with 3-4lb. of Loaf Sugar. The Oils may then be triturated with a sufficient quantity of sugar and added to the syrup, and then add a gill of Raspberry or Elder Wine. The dose for a child of two years, is half a tablespoonful every hour or every second hour, according to the severity of the case.

INHALATION OF AMONIA.—Dr. Morgan writes us that he has used this preparation as described in the August No. of the Journal, with decided advantage in three cases. The first case was a middle aged gentleman laboring under tubercular consumption of some six months duration.

When first visited by Dr. M. the patient had night sweats, hectic fever, violent cough, spitting blood, &c., &c. Considering the diseases too far advanced to admit even the possibility of a cure, he ordered the Amonia vapor by inhalation, which checked the hemorrhage and made a decided improvement in all the other symptoms on the first day of its administration. It is now about three weeks since the first application of the medicine and the patient is certainly better than at the commencement.

Also in a case of Bronchitis with inflammation extending to the throat :

the vapor has lessened the irritability, the patient coughing and expectorating much less from its use than without it.

Another trial of the medicine was made on a young man, who has had a dry and troublesome cough for three or four years, the last eight months being much worse, the inhalation has given decided satisfaction in this case, and the doctor is anxious to have our practitioners give this medicine a trial. We can give our testimony in its favor, but as we have had but little experience, are not prepared to endorse all our friend writes on the subject. S.

BOOK NOTICES.

POSITIVE MEDICAL AGENTS : A TREATISE ON THE NEW ALKALOID, RESINOID AND CONCENTRATED PREPARATIONS OF INDIGINOUS AND FOREIGN MEDICAL PLANTS.

The above is the title of a new work of 300 pages just issued by B. Kieth & Co., 582 Houston Street, N. Y., under the authority of the American Chemical Institute. We have been anticipating this work for some months, and rejoice that it is so well fitted for the purposes for which it was intended. The increasing demand for our Concentrated Medicines, and the anxiety of our practitioners to obtain more information concerning the use of them—the proper quantities for doses, &c., will make a speedy sale for the edition of this book. Considering the little known about our concentrated preparations, and the short experience in their use, we think this book is an admirable beginning, and as the subsequent editions are published, the experience of our physicians will much improve it.

It cannot be supposed that *all* the articles (some of which have been prepared but a few months) should be fully described, or even well known, and we have an idea that some of them, which now have quite a reputation, will be found nearly inert, and others, now hardly known, found very efficacious : such has been the history of the *Materia Medica* for the last century.

We hail this book as the herald of an auspicious commencement of a new era in Reformed Medicine.

Allopathy is beginning to open its eyes to see the efficacy of our indiginous plants, and the practitioners are using them, too, in thousands of cases ; so that we feel sure of the almost universal adoption of them in the practice of the Old School, as their superiority is known.

We shall in some future paper quote some portions of this book, that our readers may form a just idea of its contents. We close this notice by quoting the last sentence of the introductory letter to the Medical Profession :

"We will be under special obligations to physicians who will communicate to the proprietors of the American Chemical Institut, their experience with the agents of which the following pages treat."

METROPOLITAN MEDICAL COLLEGE.

THIRD ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

Faculty of Medicine.

ISAAC M. COMINGS, A. M., M. D.,
Professor of Anatomy and Surgery.

I. N. LOOMIS, A. M., M. D., F. R. C. S., &c.
Professor of Chemistry and Botany.

JOSEPH D. FRIEND, M. D.,
Professor of Physiology and Pathology.

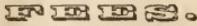
HENRY A. ARCHER, M. D.,
Professor of Theory and Practice, and Clinical Medicine.

THEODORE S. SPERRY, M. D.,
Professor of Materia Medica, and Therapeutics.

SILAS WILCOX, M. D.,
Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children.

HENRY S. LINCOLN, A. M., M. D.,
Professor of Medical Jurisprudence.

The next Session of the Metropolitan Medical College will commence on the second Tuesday in March, 1855, and continue four months.



The entire fee for Matriculation and Lectures will be	- - -	\$100.00
Graduation,	- - -	20.00
Students having attended two courses in any other Medical College, but none in this,	- - -	10.00

As we are desirous to accommodate all who wish to enter the profession, if any student is limited in his circumstances and unable to pay the full amount, by making arrangements with the President of the Board and the Faculty, he can be admitted on more favorable terms, which arrangement shall be confidential.

Good Board can be obtained in the city for \$2.50 to 4.50 per week, with all the comforts of good room, lights, fuel, &c.

Students wishing further information will address H. M. Sweet, M. D., Sec., at the office of the Board of Trustees, No. 16 West 13th Street, N. Y. or Prof. I. M. Comings, No. 68 East Broadway.

A. DOOLITTLE, M. D., *Pres.*

H. M. SWEET, M. D., *Sec.*

THE
Journal of Medical Reform.

FEBRUARY, 1855.

Selections.

CALOMEL—ANTIMONY—BLEEDING.

It is a very common habit from our brethren of the old school to arrogate to themselves all the science of medicine, that they are the only exponents of the true medical philosophy, and that all seceders from old medicine—the votaries of the new systems which have arisen—are ignorant pretenders and quacks. This has been the habit of the advocates of “the old” from immemorial time; these have been the epithets they have ever heaped upon the devoted promulgators of “the new.”—But as the running calender of Time went on, investigation and experience proved the old to be in error, and the new to be in truth. Is this so with our modern boaster of “old medicine?” Let us see.

“Scientific Medication”—what is it? That course of medication which acts in accordance with the laws of the animal economy—that course which will maintain the integrity of the constitution, unimpaired by the remedies employed—that course which is restorative and not debilitant—in short, that course of medication which harmonises with physiological law, and thus facilitates Nature in her efforts to throw off disease. Such a course of medication, and such a course only do we conceive to be scientific. Has this been the course pursued by the physicians of the old school? What says history—what says experience? They unite in the testimony that the practice of these have been a direct warfare against nature—that the remedies employed have made the most deplorable ravages upon the integrity, health and life of the vital powers, lowering and inflicting lasting injury upon the human constitution, and increasing the “mortality of disease.”

“The remedies employed”—what are they? First we would

enumerate Calomel—an agent which the Dispensatory, the standard authority of their school says, "in extent of employment is inferior to few articles of the *Materia Medica*." Calomel is a compound, composed of one equivalent of chlorine; and everybody who has taken the pains to test the matter, is abundantly aware of the fact that it is absolutely insoluble, will not dissolve, in water or any fluid in the human body. Nor is this all. It will not act, remains perfectly inert so long as it remains calomel. How then does it produce its peculiar effects? How arouse from "masterly inactivity" calm inertia to ungovernable fury, force and power? The "why and how" are easily told. After being administered into the human stomach, it combines with the chlorine there, one of the agents assisting in digestion, and by this uncalled for, unnecessary dangerous combination is converted into corrosive sublimate, which is not only very soluble, but is one of the most irritant and corroding substances known. Just in proportion to the amount of calomel converted into corrosive sublimate, which in all cases is dependent upon the amount of chlorine in the stomach at the time of its exhibition, is the purgative, alterative and salivating powers of the agent produced. Was there chlorine sufficient in the human stomach to convert all the calomel into corrosive sublimate, we assert it, and we are backed by the authority of chemical science, that the life of every patient to whom a single grain of calomel was ever administered would have been seriously endangered, and that all to whom a larger dose was given would never have recovered. Fortunately, however, for the patients of the "calomel practice," there is often but a sufficient amount of chlorine present, in the digestive tube, to convert but a fraction of a grain into the corrosive poison, which results in a gentle purge, increased in severity in proportion to the amount thus converted. How ridiculous the idea then, even supposing calomel were a justifiable remedy, of prescribing such large doses as so many do. But no man can possibly know, beforehand, what effect his prescription of calomel will produce, from the fact that he cannot ascertain the amount of chlorine with which it may meet. When the quantity is unusually large, which is often, very often the case, salivation and all the terrible effects of complete mercurialization follow.

"—sufferable ills are but removed
That life-long miseries, which unfold
More anguish far—as stiff, aching bones,
And pains rheumatic, foul, rotting teeth,
Corroding ulcers and running sores."
This "unclean" progeny of Calomel
May enter in and like vamps feast
Upon the vitals of their victims.
Thus left to grope on through life awhile
They drop into the grave before their time.

However vauntingly our erudite neighbors of the “mercurial practice” may call this science, we cannot refrain from borrowing the “thunder” of their late departed Chapman, and pronounce it “horrid unwarrantable murderous quackery.”

Secondly—We would mention Tartar Emetic—an agent which stands second in rank, and is doubtless more employed than any one of their whole catalogue of depleting and depressing agents. In all cases of fevers, inflammations, or wherever there is vascular excitement, tartar emetic, known in this section among the people by the simple name of “solution,” being tartarized antimony dissolved in water, is prescribed. But is it a “scientific” prescription, a “scientific” remedy? Let facts answer. Combine a small portion of the drug with lard, and apply it to any part of the external surface, as is so often done for pains in the breast and side, and it is found to cause an eruption of painful pustules, which none but those who experience its tortures can realize. If this is the effect it produces externally, what is it not ever in danger of producing internally? It is absorbed into the blood, decomposes its constituent elements, and, until removed, effectually prevents its reorganization, thus rendering it entirely unfit for its great purpose in the animal economy,—that of building up and sustaining its every part. Can that which thus poisons the “pabulum of life” be a scientific remedy? Our answer is an unequivocal negative. Yet because of its smallness of bulk and absence of taste, it is a favorite “remedy,” produces its mischief without any one knowing it, believing, or suspecting it; and when its depressing powers are felt, and debilitating capabilities realized, these are attributed to the disease instead of the tartar emetic.

Thirdly—We would make allusion to Blood-Letting, which has been styled “the great anti-inflammatory agent of the profession.” But is it a remedy founded upon the principles of science? Far otherwise. Science teaches the absolute need and importance of the blood in the body, that in the significant language of Moses “it is the life.” The act of bleeding is equivalent to the assertion that the patient possesses too much life,—they take it away, weakening and impairing the integrity of nature’s forces just in proportion to the amount taken. To illustrate the inconsistency of the practice: They were called to see a young lady yesterday; found her pale, feeble, “delicate and thin.” They prescribed iron, wine, and other bracing remedies to enrich the blood. Last night she “took cold,” to-day she shivers, has a rapid pulse, great heat of surface and violent pain in the chest—what now? To-day they bleed her! Yesterday she had too little blood, the quantity has not been increased, but she has too much for her safety or recovery to-day! The surface is hot, it must be cooled; the pulse is high, it must be lowered. Tartar emetic “cools,” it is prescribed. Be careful, doctors; it may cool the body till it needs the winding sheet. Blood-letting “lowers the pulse,” they bleed her; it may lower the patient down—down into

the grave. The woman that yesterday needed tonics to add to the invigorating and nutritive elements of her blood, is bled and given antimony to-day, which take from and decompose those elements, thus rendering it unable to fulfil its great purpose. She dies, the doctors say, of "fever and inflammation," but we say of the lancet and antimony.

Calomel, tartar emetic, and the lancet are the three "great pillars" of old-school medicine, and the physical damnation which they, like a poisonous simoon, have been sweeping over the country, disfiguring childhood, hastening manhood to "youthful old age," and despoiling womanhood of her beauty, cannot be computed. To what but these and their kindred can we attribute the tottering wrecks of constitutions, tumbling into premature graves all around us? To what but these can we attribute the sickening amount of nervous diseases and weaknesses which like a cloud darken a million of social and family altars in our land? To what but these can we attribute the fact of not one case in a hundred, smitten by acute disease and treated by these remedies, ever seeing full-joyous

"Health, the poor man's riches, and the rich man's bliss."

These are some of the "remedies," and such are some of the legitimate fruits of our "all-the-science possessing" neighbors of the old-school. We repeat it, these are the prominent "pillars" of the old-school medicine, for they "own up," from the popular professor down to the humblest practitioner, that to deprive themselves of these, they must cease practice. We venture an opinion, that in case such an event should occur, humanity would be "no great loser."

But here the question, sped with fluttering haste upon the uneasy wings of restless inquiry, comes from some *be-drugged* and "doctor-ridden" son of father Adam, who has from his "cradle-days" been taught to believe that man's physical salvation alone depends upon the "Motions and potions, powders and pills," of "venerable medicine." "If you remove these pillars" upon what would you have the temple of medicine stand? Why, in the first place, we would reply that, if more durable "corner stones" cannot be found, we would let the fabric fall "from proud Olympus down to Styx."

But be not alarmed, for in the second, we can assure you, that a more natural foundation exists. We have substitutes, safe, harmless, innocent, well-tried substitutes; agents which have been thoroughly, rigidly, scrutinizingly tested by some thousand practitioners, in this country and in Europe, and that too, in the treatment of every possible phase of diseased action to which our common humanity is subject; remedies which produce their effect without leaving "poisonous stings" behind. These topics are far from being exhausted, but we will allow our readers to digest what we have already "served up," before treating them to any more of the "same sort," of which

we have an abundance stored away on the "back shelf" of our memory's catch-all.—*Middle States Medical Reformer.*

NATURE THE PHYSICIAN.

BY PROF. I. M. COMINGS.

It is a remark of the celebrated Hufeland, that "there has ever been an invisible church of true physicians, who have continued faithful to nature, have acted under her direction, who have all thought and meant the same thing, who will be understood throughout all ages, and in spite of the confusion of tongues. Such men are Hippocrates, Oetius, Aroetius, Baglivi, Sydenham, Huxham, Boerhave and Frank." We may also add the name of Samuel Thomson, whose notions may have been crude, whose theories may have been vaguely expressed, and whose education was defective—yet his ideas and principles will be as universally acknowledged as those advocated by the illustrious names whom this distinguished German has mentioned above. What is it which has given these names and the principles they advocate such influence and world-wide authority? It is because they adhere so closely to nature and regard her teachings as superior to art.

The physician should be the seeing and the discriminating eye of nature; he should be her conscious reason and active will. Nature and spirit together, constitute one whole. Nature, by her creative vital power and active instinct of healing, and the spirit, by its scientific recognizance of artificial action, will effect the natural process of healing.

The physician's skill can only assist when nature flags: when she is extinct, the aid of medicine is in vain. *Medicus curat, natura sanat morbos,* (the physician takes care of disease, nature heals.) This is evidently as true a maxim now as it was three hundred years ago, when it was written; and whenever our practitioners will follow the indications of such a teacher and obey her instructions thus marked out, we shall not only have less disease to combat, but we shall be far more successful in our treatment.

There are those among us who are ready to "kick nature out of doors," disclaim her teachings, regard the patient as the machine, and the physician as the regulator or overseer of this mechanism. They strive to prove that there is no such power as the "*vis medicatrix naturae*," that all these efforts are produced by some chemical changes, or assimilating action, which is constantly going on. These views may be true, but they only prove the existence of this principle, and rather show the *modus operandi* of this power. We have no disposition to endow this *vis vitæ* with form, personality, locality or ideality; all we contend for is, that whenever there is a diseased state of the human system, there is then an effort or action, immediately

commenced, which is recuperative in its tendency and salutary in its functions—that the human organism is really a self-repairing and self-regulating machine, and that health will always pertain as long as this power, or principle, or recuperative action, is unimpeded or unembarrassed. It is this power which wards off or protects the system from the deadly miasm, the contagion, and the ten thousand exposures, to which we are subjected on every side. Were it not for this, we should meet death on every hand, and destruction would be borne to us on every breeze.

This subject has been most beautifully illustrated by Dr. Werber, who quotes from Gellert in the following fable: “A blind man and a lame man proposed to arrive at the same time to the same place. The lame man was well aware of the way, but he lacked the power of motion; the blind man was able to move, but could not perceive either the path or the goal. Sensible of their reciprocal wants, they soon found out the means of satisfying each other. The lame placed himself upon the shoulders of the blind and directed him in the road; the blind bore the lame upon his back, and both of them obtained their end.”

The relation between these men illustrates that of nature and the physician. Nature operates according to certain laws, appropriate to the preservation of a healthy condition against disturbing attacks; so she is always active to conserve the normal organization and its functions, and to counteract disturbances inflicted on her from some external cause. She has the active faculty, if we may so speak, of producing organic and dynamic mutations. In some cases she loses the power to act, or is enfeebled in her efforts, and then she needs the aid of the physician and those remedial agents which act in harmony with her efforts. In this respect she resembles the strong, vigorous-limbed blind man, who wants a guide to reach his place of destination, without jeopardy and within a short space of time; or, like the lame man, she is enfeebled in her efforts, and needs the strength which nature’s physician and nature’s remedies afford to gain the desired end.

QUACKERY.

MEDICINE is an art somewhat dependent on public estimation, and those engaged in the practice of it, are, like other men, the creatures of fashion and caprice. If the voice of the multitude asserts that certain ignoramuses possess a universal knowledge of the various forms of disease, what power can prevent the credulous from submitting themselves or their relations to the care of such practitioners? It is unjust, therefore, that every medical man should suffer because such is the folly of public opinion.

The scientific practitioner assiduously repairs to those sources of

knowledge from which the quack turns with disgust, because every conscientious man, who, in his daily practice, finds himself involved in perplexity and darkness, wishes to avail himself of all the facilities in the reach of the human intellect. General intelligence, science and medical literature, are constantly regarded, by the true physician, as the luminaries which must dissipate the gloom and difficulty which too frequently overhang him in his progress; but, in the estimation of the empiric, these luminaries are stripped of their importance, and, to his eye, the light which they afford is less interesting, because the nature of disease is already determined and exactly corresponds with the evident or occult qualities of his nostrums.

ONE IDEAISM.

"**MEDICINES DO NOT ACT IN THE BODY."**

AMONG all the obstacles to progress with which the reformers of all classes must contend, and against which it is most important ever to guard, is their own tendency to the adoption of what is very properly termed "one ideaism," or the adoption of one idea, to the exclusion of everything that opposes or modifies it. This tendency arises from the absolute inability of the human mind to perceive or to contemplate more than one subject at the instant of time, and from its disposition to contemplate that one so intensely as to forget, for the moment, all others. Hence, men often write on the same page, in the same paragraph, and sometimes in the same sentence, propositions diametrically opposed to each other, thus:

Prof. Payne says, Inst., p. 464: "Inflammation and fever are the two orders of disease which make up the great amount of human maladies and form the grand outlets of life." And on the same page he says:—"Inflammation takes its rise in purely physiological conditions, and holds its progress and decline under the same great natural laws of the constitution." Here are two propositions diametrically opposed to each other, they cannot both be true. He must have forgotten the former while writing the latter.

The ancients, whose one ideaism consisted in the belief that the vital principle was the cause of all the actions in the body, said:

"*Medicamenta non agunt in corpora.*"—Medicines do not act in the body.

But the one ideaism of more modern times was, that medicines do the curative action of the body.

Prof. Chapman adopting both doctrines, even in regard to the same agent, said, in his work on *materia medica* and *therapeutics*, that the former seems true to a certain extent, but that the latter, also, after that extent seems true. Thus he, like others, attributed to mercury, to a certain extent, a destructive power. It is not evident that mercury can not change its character in consequence of being

given in large or small quantities, or under different circumstances?

A modern writer falls into the same one idealism, that "alcohol does not act in the system, but the system acts on the alcohol, (p. 22.) But on page 16, he had said that it first "smarts the finger," and then "deadens the nerve." On page 8 he had said, that "it absorbs water from the flesh," and "produces the same effects in the body that are produced out of it," that is "thickens the coat of the stomach so that no washings can remove it;" and on the page 9, that "it averts the natural process of oxydation on which the vigor of the animal powers depends." "It begins the work of diseasing the nervous fibre. * * It shrinks the nerve and hardens the albumen of which it is composed, and thus deranges its functions."

We should like to know how it can do all this without *acting* on the system.

Another writer denies (p. 26) that the "schnapps" really act upon the excretory organs, and contends that these organs act upon the "schnapps," contemplating its expulsion. But he had said (p. 24.) by the introduction of a drug, "the living membrane of the stomach is *roused* to increased action, till finally it becomes so *wearied* as to refuse, to respond to the *impression*. The *lash* ceases to be *troublesome*." "A new enemy will startle them again." (24.) Of the "schnapps" he says (p. 26): "Its *injurious impression* is *felt* in the mouth, throat, æsophagus," etc.

How can these statements be true if "the drug does not act upon the body?" And, if the only action produced is simply that of the body to expel the drug," according to the "law of the animal economy," (p. 25,) why is it that different drugs produce effects so different in character? as astringent, relaxant, nauseant, sedative, stimulant, escharotic, etc.? If food and water, "never act on the system," by what means does the system learn that they are present? And how does it learn that one is bread and the other meat—that one is coffee and another water? and what matter is it whether you excite the system to healthy action with drugs or water? Verily, these authors, though learned and sensible, honest and philanthropic, when they allow themselves to entertain only *one idea*, speak absurdities as great and glaring as those put forth by other men!

But they will say to us, "To admit that medicines act on the body, is to admit that they sometimes cure disease." Well, what of that? We have no objection to admitting anything that we find to be true. If the specific action of the medicine is the one needed to cure the disease, you give it and the disease is cured—why not admit that the medicine cured it? For example: in a simple acute fever, the disease consists in a dry, contracted and irritated state of the tissues, producing accumulated heat (from loss of fluids.) Drink freely of cold water and bathe in it till the fluids are applied, the heat is absorbed and the tissues are expanded, and the symptoms cease: the

disease is cured. What cured it? A nerve has lost its impressibility; electricity is applied, its function returns—what cured it? A nerve is irritated and painful; magnetic manipulations are applied, it is soothed, calmed, relieved—what cured the nerve?

But our friends will say that, if they have one idea that medicines never cure; we have the other, that they always cure. Not so fast; we have not said that, nor do we believe it. Let a person who has a foul stomach, take antimony, copper and zinc, as prepared for emetics, and he will often vomit and get well. Here the drug acts out its nature against the requisitions of the system, and in favor of disease. But the system reacts against both the drug and the disease, and removes both. And this plan of curing (by provocation) is called Allopathic. It is objectionable because the agent used to provoke a cure, tends to produce disease and death. But suppose that, instead of antimony, you give some other agent, say lobelia, boneset, cayenne, bayberry, or even water, and they incite emesis in a way that will not produce disease, but simply *impress* the system to the performance of its proper functions. The cure thus effected is Physio-Medical, and is preferable to the Allopathic, because it cures and does not kill, nor does it even injure, unless, like all other physiological actions, it be by carrying it beyond the necessities of the case.

If food does not act upon the body, why are some articles pleasant to the taste and nutritious to the tissues, while others are disagreeable and injurious? If drink does not act upon the body, how do you know whether it is alcohol or water you imbibe? And why does that body fight against the former and receive the latter kindly?

Again, if water is so unexciting to the system that it will not stimulate it to the performance of an act that is imperatively needed, as when some poison has been swallowed, what objection can there be to using a stimulant, as a relaxing, stimulating and astringent preparation, that will speedily effect the object, and rid the system of its enemy without leaving any injury behind? And what reason, sense or fairness is classing such agents (under the approbrious name of "DRUGS") with the deadly poisons whose only qualities and tendencies, however sometimes overruled by the superior action of the vital force, are always to the production of disease and death?

While we commend our friends for saying that not all agents that are called medicines cure diseases, nor all that are called food nourish the body, we hope they will not be so "one ideaish" as to suppose that no medicines cure diseases and no food nourishes the body. It requires but little reflection to perceive that this doctrine cuts up by the roots, and blows to the winds, all their excellent instructions about the comparative value of different articles of food and drink, as being good or bad. Whatever does not act upon the system, can do it no material good or harm.

It has been the doctrine of Allopathy, that the greater the power of an agent to disturb or destroy the physiological action of the sys-

tem, the better it is as a medicine; and hence all the wretchedness, ruin and death, entailed on man by the use of drug poisons for medicine. Allopathy has made no distinction between those that provoke and those that invite physiological disturbances, and hence her amalgamation of good and evil in her practice, without equal praise and censure of them both. With one breath she calls fever and inflammation disease, and the outlet of life; with the next she admits the ~~in~~ to begin, continue and end, in purely physiological conditions, and to be indispensable to the cure of every malady. With one breath she pronounces the lancet, calomel, opium, lobelia, cayenne, vapor baths, in skillful (that is, Allopathic) hands, the greatest remedies God has ever vouchsafed to man for the cure of his maladies; with the next, she attributes to them (in unskillful hands) the destruction of more lives than have followed the sword, pestilence and famine. Making no discriminate classification of observed facts, she has never established a scientific principle in medicine, nor absolutely fixed upon a single course or means of practice. Her movements have been continually changing, in a circle rather than progression.

Perceiving what no reflecting man with his eyes open can fail to observe, that Allopathy, as a whole, is worse than nothing; that Hydropathy, as a part, is better, our Hydropathic friends have abandoned Allopathy as a *whole*, and every part of it, and adopted as all-sufficient, that which is only a part of what God gave them as a whole, and resolved to abuse everything else as worse than useless, and to compel that "one member" of the great body of the science and practice of medicine to do all the duties for which God designed the whole! Let them not accuse others of any "one ideaism" so long as they are guilty of this *little* one themselves!

We believe that medicines always act on the body and that the body always acts on the medicines—that each always has a specific action on the other; but that from quantity and quality, proportion and relation, sometimes the one predominates—sometimes the other. That these characters or qualities and these relations are according to fixed laws which may and should be learned and applied in practice; and that when this is done, medicines will no longer be a one idea or one sided system, whose opposite principles, teachings and practice, are so far from truth and reason that sensible men will reject them all; but a beautiful system of truth, and a rational and effective practical art that will commend itself to the judgement and approval of all.—*Physio Medical Recorder.*

DYSPEPTIC PRECEPTS.—Use tobacco freely in every form; keep the pipe going briskly—do n't stop.

Be sure to take tea and coffee—take them hot, scalding hot—very strong, with but little admixture of sugar and cream. Indeed, take all your food smoking hot.

Original Communications.

CUTANEOUS DISEASES.

BY PROF. I. M. COMINGS.

URTICARIA, NETTLE RASH.—*Pathological description and Causes.* This disease is so called because the appearance is precisely like that of a person stung with nettles; *urtica* being the latin for nettle. We have, in this affection efflorescences, extended patches and *wheals*, and by this last word I mean a pretty hard elevation of skin; such as occurs from a horse whip applied to the surface of the body, but it is defined particularly by Dr. Willan, to be a round, oval or longitudinal elevation of the cuticle, not permanent, nor containing fluid and not tending to suppuration. The efflorescence is of a vivid red, a very intense red, sometimes of a damask blue, almost the appearance which we observe in those persons said to have “claret marks.” Occasionally there are a few very small wheals, but not always; the efflorescence being the character of the disease, though in the greater number of cases. In the midst of this efflorescence, we find these wheals, which appear somewhat white amidst the red patches. There is a *tingling* itching exactly as is the sensation in being stung by the nettles.

The most common cause of urticaria is the application of cold immediately after the body has been heated; as some vitiated humors, or morbid matter, seems to be checked in its passage through the skin; it may arise from an emotion of the mind, as the nerves have a particular influence over all the excretory, as well as the recretory apparatus. It may arise from teething, and from certain injesta, some have it through one kind of food and some through another. In some persons the skin of the almond will produce it. Some kinds of mushrooms will give origin to it. Red herring, shrimps, lobster, and any shell-fish, will produce it in some persons. So intense is the idiosyncracy of some persons, as to muscles, in reference to this disease, that a single teaspoonful of the water, in which they have been boiled, has been known to produce it. Malt liquor, white wine, vinegar and common spirits will induce it in some people. Many persons on taking copaiba are covered with nettle rash. Opium will often cause it. The various spices will cause it in some persons. Irritants applied externally have induced it in others.

Diagnosis.—If the bumps be very hard indeed, they are at the same time large; and that variety of the disease is called *urticaria tuberosa*. Sometimes the bumps are pretty large and hard, and very painful. This variety chiefly occurs in the loins and legs, and is generally worse at night, subsiding in the morning, and leaving the patient weak. If it happens that these wheals and patches are numerous, and of irregular form, and coalesce it is called *urticaria confertu*, and these are said to occur chiefly in persons of a dry swarthy

skin, above forty years of age. If the disease has been preceded, or is accompanied by headache, nausea, gastrodynic, drowsiness and pyrexia, it is called *urticaria febrilis*. Very frequently, whether preceded by these symptoms or not, it is attended by them when it does appear. If they precede it, they will still continue, but frequently they will come on only when it appears. Generally in severe cases there is heat and thirst, the tongue is white, yellowish and loaded; the epigastrium is tender, the pulse is full and quick, and now and then the disease will come on, like any other fever with shivering.

Sometimes this disease is chronic, it is then called *urticaria persans*. The redness will go, but the wheals, perhaps, will remain now and then, instead of remaining chronic; it comes and goes for many months, vanishing and recurring, and then it is called *urticaria evanida*. But it is unnecessary to tax the memory with these expressions. It is sufficient to know that it comes and goes or stays, without knowing how authors arbitrarily choose to designate these varieties. It sometimes happens that the eruption disappears, or only comes from time to time, and when the tingling comes between the appearances of the disease, it is then called *urticaria subcutania*. It seems to lie underneath the skin, and teases the patients without showing its face.

Symptoms.—This disease is sometimes so active that persons can hardly see out of their eyes; and in fact we can see but little of their eyes. Every part around is swollen, the cheeks, lips and scalp are tense, the nose also. The eruption will vary in intensity, and vary in situation, not only on different days, but at different hours of the same day, it will come and go, several times in twenty-four hours. Warmth will aggravate it, and on the other hand exposure to cold will do just the same. When a person undresses, and there is an application of cold air to a part of the surface, which before was covered, it will frequently bring out the rash, and make it worse. On the other hand, if a person go into the other extreme, if he stand near the fire, or take stimuli that are impure, he will be worse. Rubbing also and scratching make things a great deal worse, yet it is so bad that the patient can hardly help it. This disease is not always confined to the surface. It sometimes effects the internal mucous membrane next the surface, and the sub mucous cellular membrane. We often find the tongue, fauces and throat swollen, so that the patient can hardly swallow. The irritation of the mucous membrane, in the upper part of the throat sometimes occasions a degree of cough. There are said to be a few cases of irritation of the bladder, producing strangury, and sometimes diarrhoea is induced. There have been cases ending fatally, but they are exceedingly rare. This disease will last for a few days, perhaps a fortnight, and now and then there will be a slight scurf afterwards.

Treatment.—As the cause of this complaint is mostly confined to

articles taken into the stomach. It is very evident that an emetic is always indicated or at least in most cases. And here the Lobelia has the advantage over the Ipecac or any other article used, as it is an antidote and serves immediately to neutralize the poison whatever it may be. It is also more diaphoretic and promotes cutaneous transpiration, far more successfully than any other article we know of.

In all bad cases it will be best to keep up the perspiration by the Vapor Bath, let this follow the emetic, and the system is at once freed from the cause and the patient is well.

Purified charcoal taken freely in water will often afford relief. Dr. Comfort recommends saffron tea, (*crocus sat.*) on going to bed. Any of our pure stimulents may be taken and perspiration kept up by any means that we usually find indicated to secure this.

If the itching is very severe, rubbing with weal, is a very good application. A decoction of Lobelia Herb applied to the surface, will often have the happiest effect. There are cases where pepper-sauce will afford relief and again others will be more benefitted by an alkaline bath.

68 East Broadway, New York.

PNEUMONITIS TYPHOIDES

BY D. WHITING.

PROF. COMINGS : Dear Sir,—Permit me through the columns of the Journal of Medical Reform to report an important case, which I had the opportunity of witnessing from day to day, while the patient was under the care of Dr. S. Wilcox.

Alonzo Knapp, a young man of sanguine-nervous temperament, was taken sick the fifth of last month, (October,) with Pneumonitis, (inflammation of the lungs.) An experienced Allopathic physician was employed, who went through the routine of bleeding, blistering, &c. The patient grew worse rapidly. Fever assumed a typhoid character, and violent delirium ensued.

Oct. 16. Dr. Wilcox was called to visit the case. On examination found the following symptoms, viz. A high state of delirium, which had existed incessantly for the past seven or eight days ; great subsultus tendinum, (twitching of the tendons,) with a constant tossing and reaching upward of the arms, making an examination of the pulse quite impracticable ; fingers closely flexed within the palms ; lower extremities drawn up, (tetanus) ; muscles of the face rigid, (trismus or lockjaw) ; abdomen tympanitic and tender upon pressure ; bowels discharging involuntarily, the excretions being very foetid ; urine of a dark color and without sediment ; pungent heat of the chest ; cough with no expectoration ; respiration difficult ; eyes congested and watery ; countenance cadaverous ; teeth and lips encrusted with black sordes ; extremities cold ; and numerous large petechial spots were visible upon the body and lower limbs.

The exhalations from the patient were so offensive that to remain in the room long at a time was beyond endurance.

At this stage of the disease, when every visible symptom was prominently marked with the monitions of death, Dr. W. commenced his treatment by giving antiseptics, containing a free quantity of Lobelia Inflata. Prescribed sudorifics, expectorants and anti-spasmodics ; a weak alkaline compress about the chest ; a cold, wet cloth upon the head ; stimulating applications to the extremities, &c.

Oct. 17. Symptoms somewhat modified, with a gentle moisture of the surface. Dyspnea (difficult breathing) slightly abated ; trismus and tetanus removed ; bowels discharging less frequent and foetid. Could now examine the tongue—was swollen and covered in the centre with a thick brown coating, with red tip and edges. Free expectoration of mucus, streaked with blood. On removing the linen, portions of gangrenous flesh sloughed from his body in the posterior region, the largest point extending from the lower lumbar vertebra, about three inches in length and two in width, laying bare the spine the entire length of the cavity. The other points, numbering seven, were much smaller, but as deep as the former.

For a local treatment, applied a strong infusion of Myrica Cerifera, followed by the same in pulvis and plaster, to prevent irritation of the surrounding parts. The constitutional remedies were continued the same.

Oct. 18. Subsultus less ; delirium not as violent ; respiration free ; pulse 130 and irregular ; tongue looking some better ; excretions from the bowels more healthy and moving by enema ; tympanitis removed. Treatment nearly the same by adding of drachm doses of "third preparation" to result in emesis.

Oct. 19. Subsultus abating ; pulse 110, urine of a lighter color, depositing sediment. A solution of Zinci sulphur was now applied to the sloughing. Numerous subcutaneous ulcers had formed, being in a condition to discharge copiously of a purulent and bloody consistence.

Oct. 20. Delirium intermitting ; pulse 100 ; more ulcers forming. The flesh contiguous to the sloughing harder and looking more healthy.

Oct. 21. Delirium transient ; pulse 90 ; sores cicatrizing.

Oct. 22. Tongue nearly natural ; but little fever.

Nov. 7. Since the last date the patient has convalesced under gentle tonics, with light nutritious diet. Is now able to walk about, the room, and improving fast.

It would seem that an acquaintance with this remarkable case could not fail to command the highest confidence in our simple, yet powerful, remedial agents, when judiciously administered under the true principles of Medical Reform.

Bennington, Vt., Nov., 1854.

TYPHOID PNEUMONIA.

BY H. M. SWEET, M.D..

HAVING had the care of one of the most violent cases of this disease, during the last six weeks, and the most obstinate in my experience, the thought has arisen that a brief synopsis of it was worthy of being reported in the columns of the Journal, particularly at this time when the disease is prevailing to a considerable extent throughout the country.

The patient is of middle age, of nervo-bilious temperament, and at the time of taking to her bed was nursing an infant nine months old. It is proper to remark that she had not been well since the birth of her child. About two months previous to her confinement to her bed, she assisted in taking care of her father, who died of a disease of similar character, and the labor and excitement occasioned thereby no doubt brought on her own illness.

The fever was preceded by debility, loss of appetite, giddiness, disinclination to move about, &c.

The patient was unwilling to take proper medicines, or in sufficient quantity to eradicate the disease, consequently it was acquiring strength by age until the 15th of December, when the fever was ushered in by chills, and she took to her bed. Medication was now resorted to in earnest. The following compound to induce perspiration, viz. Lobelia Capsicum and Asclepias was given in infusion, and full doses of Lobelia to operate as an emetic, followed by Lep-tandrine and castor oil to move the bowels.

This treatment was pursued four days in succession, during which time the symptoms grew worse. Under the influence of the Lobelia the expectoration was immense, and was so tenacious that it had to be taken from the mouth. Free vomiting could not be induced ; the contents of the stomach were never evacuated, and the bowels were so constipated that the cathartics produced but slight evacuations, and those of a bilious character.

About the 22d, the disease assumed a typhoid type. Pulse one hundred and thirty beats a minute ; delirium intense ; the cough more distressing, and breathing laborious ; deafness and total insensibility to surrounding objects. The eyes, however, continued their natural expression throughout the whole course of the disease.

Injections of Lobelia Capsicum and eyprepidium were now administered frequently to bring the system under the therapeutic influence of the former article ; the surface bathed in tepid ley water, and cat-nip tea administered as warm as could be borne, and hot bottles of water, wrapped in wet cloths, put around the patient.

This treatment induced free perspiration, and was continued for about eighteen hours, but with no perceptible advantage. The delirium had increased and the lungs were in no wise relieved, nor the arterial action modified.

Leptandrine, Podophylline and castor oil in combination, were now administered with the design of breaking up the congested state of the liver ; capsicum and bayberry, to arouse the morbid condition of the intestinal canal and keep up the vitality of the system, and *seutilaria* and *asclepias* as a febrifuge expectorant and tonic. Injections as before, with the addition of a teaspoon-full of table salt to each, were given about three a day, and the surface bathed in ley water twice or thrice in the same period of time.

In the course of five days the quantity of cathartic medicines given would amount to about twenty ordinary doses, and although the bowels moved two or three times a day, the evacuations were very small. At this stage of the complaint, consultation was had with a number of our best reformers, who coincided in the general treatment thus far pursued. The condition of the patient had however gone on from bad to worse. The fever presented more of an inflammatory diathesis. Petchiae appeared upon the body and extremities. The breathing stertous as in apoplexy ; the tongue coated with black sordes and very much swollen, as was also the throat ; the teeth encrusted, tympanites, and soreness of the abdomen ; deglutition difficult, and speech almost unintelligible ; twitching of the tendons so much that the pulse could scarcely be determined ; urine scant and very offensive.

The patient lay in a comatose state for two days, at the end of which time was taken with spasms, which would last about five minutes, and return in about half an hour. During the spasms the blood vessels in the neck were very much distended, and the throbbing in the head excessive.

In addition to the former treatment, the tincture of *Gelsemium* was given to the extent of 200 drops in the course of six hours, but failed to reduce the paroxysm in the least. They finally yielded to doses of camphor of one-half grain each, repeated every five minutes, to the extent of about ten doses.

The petchiae finally went off gradually, and in four or five days had disappeared. The congested state of the lungs had, however, assumed a more serious aspect. Cloths wet in cold water, and covered with dry flannel, were applied to the chest and throat. A strong decoction of white balsam, blue vervane and white root, infused in boiling water, was given in as cold a state as it could be made by setting it on ice.

A wineglass full of this infusion every hour, and every two hours one of the compound emetic pills. It is proper to state that cold water had been constantly kept to the head and bottles of hot water to the feet, from the commencement of the delirium. Mustard paste also was frequently applied to the soles of the feet, ankles, between the shoulders and wrists. Castor oil alone, or combined with leptandrine, was given every day sufficiently in conjunction with the enemas to keep the bowels free. The evacuations at this

time were of a dark color, and not so watery as at a former period.

During the five succeeding days the symptoms remained pretty much the same, only that there was an alternate chill and fever.

On the twenty-seventh day of the fever there was a perceptible change for the better. The parts to which mustard had been applied began to look inflamed ; the delirium abated gradually ; the bowels became more active, and the stricture upon the lungs to give way. As soon as the patient was conscious enough to describe her feelings she complained of soreness as though she had been beaten.

There was in this case no marked crisis. When convalescence took place, the change from day to day was so slight as scarcely to be noticed, and up to this time, after three weeks have elapsed, she is only able to set up long enough to have her bed made. The bowels are still inactive ; the fever has entirely subsided, also the pain in the head ; but the soreness and weakness of the muscles is very distressing. The appetite is improving, and although she is gaining slowly, we have reason to believe she will soon be restored to her usual health.

Editorial.

WHO ARE ECLECTICS?

PROF. KING in the January No. of the Eclectic Medical Journal, says, "Eclectic physicians consist at present of four classes :

"1st. Graduates of the Eclectic Med. Institute of Cincinnati.

"2d. Graduates of old school Institutions who have adopted liberal reformatory views.

"3d. Graduates of minor schools, (Eclectics,) *some of which are hardly to be recognized as respectable.*

"4th. Irregular practitioners who have studied with private preceptors and read such miscellaneous text books as please their fancy.

"No doubt among the two latter classes there may be some who affiliate with Thomsonians and charlatans, and no doubt a number of Thomsonians and quacks may have sought to win public favor by appropriating to themselves the title of Eclectics ; but similar abuses exist in what is called the regular profession, and legitimate Eclectics are trying to put down these quackeries by which all professions are equally annoyed."

Many thanks to you for the above discriminating remarks. We have long wanted the line drawn between the true Medical Reformer and the Eclectic, here it is, and we hope that it will be satisfactory to all those who seek to be denominated by the title of Eclectic. "Thomsonians and quacks" who have appropriated this name, are not recognized as Eclectics, so we hope all

Medical Reformers will at once renounce a title which they have assumed without due authority and hence they are in borrowed plumage. Remember too, that "legitimate Eclectics are trying to put down these ^{ill}quackeries by which they are annoyed."

In another portion of this same article, Prof. King says "Eclecticism has no sympathy with the sectarian narrowness and ignorance of Thomsonism, and Eclecticism is not improved Thomsonism." So much for what Eclecticism is not, the above is negative Eclecticism, but listen now all ye Medical Reformers and we shall have what we have long been wanting, viz., a true definition of what Eclecticism is. We have long sought for an authorized explanation of this *ism*, and here it is, "Eclecticism is a practical and scientific improvement upon the common doctrines of the profession."

Here then we have it at last, that Eclecticism is a scientific improvement of Allopathy. We thought that the "common doctrines" of Allopathy were wrong, that there was need not only of a *reformation*, but a complete *revolution* of the old "doctrines" and theories of the old school. We had thought that the Eclectics were with us in battling against the doctrines and theories that have governed and still rule the Allopathic profession, but we have been sadly mistaken, it is only some "improvement" of these doctrines which is the sum and substance of Eclecticism.

We have here at last authoritatively avowed what we have often averred, that Eclecticism did not seek any thing more than to improve some of the more objectionable features of Allopathy, indeed, in this very article of which we have made the above quotations, Prof. King says, "the Eclectics adhere with conservative prudence to the established mass of medical science."

Now we candidly ask, if this is medical Reform; or if those who have been contending for more than 50 years, for sanative medication, are satisfied with this "improvement" of Allopathy?

Heaven forbid that such Eclecticism as this should be called "improved Thomsonism," and we only regret that *our remedies* should have fallen into such mongrel hands.

Let us ask Prof. King, what his big Dispensatory would be worth without the remedial agents which Samuel Thomson first made known to the civilized world? and what would have been known of hundreds of his highly extolled medicines without the experience of these "quack and empirical Thomsonians" which he effects to sneer at so much?

There is nothing that excites our pity so much as the *high pretensions* of Eclecticism, and the vain attempt which is made to conceal their origin. It is the sickly and deformed child, denying its robust and manly parent.

But this is not all, Prof. Buchanan advocates doing away with the name Eclectic and thus removing the very *last distinction* between Allopathy and

this pretended Reform. This is all right, and the sooner it takes place the better. There is now so little difference between the Eclectic and the Allopath, that it will require no surrender of principles and but very little of practice to perfect the fraternization. We shall only congratulate the Allopaths on the accession which they are about to receive and the improvements to be made in their practice.

We must also remind all Medical Reformers, and all Thomsonians, that they are unceremoniously kicked out of the Eclectic ranks, they are not recognised as belonging to that *honorable* body.

WORCESTER INSTITUTION AND ITS ORGAN.

OUR friend Porter, of the New England Medical and Surgical Journal, will accept our thanks for the defence he has so ably made for us in the November number of his paper. No one is better acquainted with the true condition of the Worcester Medical Institution at present, or more familiar with its history, than Dr. Porter. The voluntary statement he has there made for us, with the short reply in the December number from us, is all that we deem necessary to say on the subject. We never like to trample upon a fallen foe, or glory over the misfortunes of others.

We assisted, not a little, in the early support of the Worcester Medical Institution, and we shall very much regret to see it crippled in its usefulness, or the original design of its founders prevented. If the Institution is governed by those who do not advocate or understand the principles of Medical Reform, and if its organ is controlled by a Homœopathic physician; how can those who have the cause of Medical Reform at heart, advocate its interests or rally to its support.

We have no desire for controversy, neither shall we engage with the *infinitesimal* editor, in any kind of warfare; as the ordinance we have been accustomed to use, against our more "*heroic*" enemy, possesses a calibre quite to large for the "*pellets*" of Homœopathy, which alone would be suitable to so small a specimen of the disciples of Hahnemann.

GRATUITOUS MEDICAL AID.

THE following truthful remarks we cut from the *Times* of this City of the date of 12th Jan. They contain a high compliment to our profession and we believe that they are true to the letter in a great majority of cases. There may be some few wealthy physicians who are particular to enquire if the applicant for medical service has the "*five dollar fee*" to pay, but these are only the exceptions to the general rule.

There is no other profession so poorly paid, or whose charities are so constantly tasked. It is not only services, but medicines, and after all this there are none so grudgingly paid :

"These hard times make busy but most unprofitable days for physicians. With all that the City gives for the poor, and all that private citizens bestow, very many would suffer daily for the lack of medical attendance, but for the aid of physicians in private practice. There is in the community an unfounded and most injurious prejudice against "dispensary doctors." The feeling is strongest perhaps in the few poor of American birth, and weakest among the poor of English extraction. The Germans are not very sensitive on the point, but many an Irishwoman will go half a dozen times a day to the office of a private practitioner, to beg his attendance upon a sick member of her family, rather than avail herself of the services of the dispensary physician. Perhaps in her case it oftenest has happened that the physician, provoked by her perpetual blundering, has given her a "blowing up" for her carelessness, and she takes her revenge by leaving him to finish his night's rest in peace while she vents her anathemas and calls up another practitioner.

"These calls upon the poor are a very great tax upon physicians. They require no less attention than do those who pay most liberally, and they get no less. True, it is the route to successful practice in a profitable circle, this tedious course of practicing upon an unpaying one. But it obliges the young physicians to give of his time the best services an amount which is equalled by very few of the most pretentiously charitable. More than half of the practice in the City, we venture, is an unpaid practice; and could only a fair remuneration be made for the freely rendered services of the faculty for the current year, there is scarcely a member of the profession in town that would not laugh when you spoke of debt, and go about feeling that his profession is a most profitable one.

"Several letters have been received from physicians offering gratuitous services to the poor. We do not publish them, since, with perhaps scarcely a score of exceptions, no physician or surgeon dose otherwise ever than serve the poor gratuitously. Some, when run down with business, turn over applicants to younger brethren with whom they have arranged for the purpose, but very few, indeed turn them off without some assistance. Yet there are dispensaries, infirmaries and hospitals maintained at great expense for just such cases. Let us honor the physician for his marked humanity and beneficence. Other professions do little of such work. Few merchants furnish bundles of calico, or packages of silks, or barrels of flour, or pecks of potatoes to the poor for nothing, because they are poor. "Ask of the Societies—the Ten Governors—of the City," say they, to any who have the face

to apply. There is a deal of good done and charity devised and carried out which does not get trumpeted, nor finds a record under the head of "Relief for the poor" in the newspapers. And none more abound in such works than the doctors, whom we esteem in our sickness, pay grudgingly on our recovery, and make the butt of all our very poorest witticisms."

ONE JOURNAL.

In a late Number of the Physio-Medical Recorder, the junior editor has a sensible article urging the profession to unite in sustaining one Medical Journal.

We have for some time been of opinion that we have too many publications of this kind, and shall hail with pleasure any movement looking to the concentration of patronage and talent in this regard. And as New-York is pretty generally acknowledged to be the center and focus of all that pertains to art, literature and science in this country, and enjoys greater facilities for publishing than any other city in the union, we shall not decline the honor, if our brethren unite in making this Journal their chosen organ, and the editors of the various Medical Journals, for the good of the common cause, transfer their subscription lists to ours. We are aware that Dr. Cook of the Recorder, was for a long time in favor of making this Journal *the* Journal of the country, and we hope he has seen no reason to reconsider his opinion that New York above any other place affords opportunities for establishing and sustaining a great national organ. But if no such arrangement is effected we shall still continue to do our best to make the Journal of Medical Reform worthy of the liberal patronage it is now receiving, and shall endeavor to avoid any seeming of envy, jealousy or selfishness in our bearing toward our highly respected contemporaries.

S.

BE CAUTIOUS WHAT YOU EAT IN THE HOUSE OF A DOCTOR.—The Evening post tells the following story which is almost too funny to be true—"A few evenings since a party of ladies were invited to the house of a physician, in this city, to sew for some benevolent object, and in the course of events, tea was served; some uncommonly palatable soda biscuits were among the attractions of the entertainment, and the guests all ate of them freely. Shortly after, the lady of the house was seized with a distressing nausea, and was obliged to retire. She had hardly made her hurried apologies, before her guests, when one after another, complained of illness, and before their friends or carriages could be sent for, were all prostrate on the floor, vomiting in every direction. The police in the streets came in to know the cause of the rushing to and fro, and in and out, and the company were seized

with fearful apprehensions of having been poisoned. They all had finally to be transported to their respective homes in carriages. Upon an investigation it turned out that the cook had, by mistake, gone to the doctor's closet and taken some tartar emetic, in stead of cream of tartar, for her biscuits, and had made them so very light that they would not stay upon the stomachs of any that ate of them."

ELEMENTS OF UNION.

In the November No. of the N. Eng. Med. and Surg. Journal we notice a communication from Prof. Calkins, on the proper elements for the formation of a Medical Society. It seems that there is a society in Massachusetts, which is made up of all grades, classes, sects and isms, in the whole range of Medicine. It is a sort of "omnium gatherum," a conglomeration of every thing not fully Allopathic. The attempt to bring all these conflicting elements into a harmonious action has proved abortive, and it ought to be so, for Medical Reform will never prosper, until those who advocate and practice its tenets, shall be governed by those fundamental principles which have foundation in nature, and the Physiological laws of life. But here follows the pertinent remarks of the doctor :

"Here is an Indian Doctor, there an electrical doctor, here a man who is all self—keeps secret compounds, cures by some wonderful enchantment, thereby reviving in the 19th century the foolishness of ancient barbarian nations ; here is a man who never had a medical education, either in the schools or in the field of practice, who regards the wisdom of this world as foolishness in his sight, who may have learned to treat successfully a few diseases, but who is most woefully deficient in the knowledge of the whole course of medical Science ; and here is a man who has sworn eternal allegiance to the principle of "*Similia similibus curantur*," who will not under any circumstances deviate therefrom. Shall all these classes mingle in one common crucible, and be melted therein ? Here are elements which will neutralize each other, as surely as the acid, the alkali. In order to have anything permanent, there must be some general principle to bind together the association, some general idea for whose development and influence its members are determined to sacrifice and to labor. What shall that idea be ? It is simply a negation—an expurgation of mercurials, antimonials, arsenic and the lancet from the list of remedial agents ? There must be something positive in the idea ;—a substitute—yea, more than a substitute for those remedies, must be found to remove inflammation. This substitute is found in the use of water at various temperatures, of lobelia, gelsemium, podophyllin, iridin, leptandrin, or these articles in a crude state, and various

other vegetable articles in the *Materia Medica*. To all such as have confidence in these remedies, and thoroughly apply them;—who reject the pathological error of Allopathy that inflammation is an exalted rather than a depressed state of the vital force;—to all such as reject those dangerous means above referred to, for the removal of inflammation, and have, at the same time, sufficient knowledge of medicine to pass a creditable examination before a board of censors on all the branches of medical study; or who have been graduated at a respectable medical college; to all such as have these qualifications, and are willing to divest themselves of all connection with low and debasing quackery; let the society be open. If a society cannot be formed on this basis, or a similar one, where is there hope for medical Reform? There must be a point at which the dividing line between quackery and reform in medicine must be drawn; and the sooner that point is found and the land-mark set up, the better. So long as the Reformer willingly consents to be considered a companion and associate of every ignoramus who ventures to doctor, just so long the community will not distinguish between the scientific Reformer and the ignorant pretender."

It is only when such elements as these are combined, that we may expect union or efficiancy. If our N. England friends would advance Medical Reform, or if they desire prosperity in their opposition to Allopathy, they must adopt the course marked out by Prof. Calkins.

WHO ARE ROUTINISTS ?

WE could but be amused in reading an article in the Dec. number of the American Medical Monthly, "On the Pathology and Treatment of Acute Rheumatism," by O. C. Gibbs, M. D. After giving the various theories and views of distinguished authors, he sums up the treatment in these words, viz., "Bloodletting, purgatives, and mercurials," but as this same course of treatment is recommended for so many and so great a variety of other diseases, he adds as follows : "It may be objected that the treatment proposed and here recommended, savors too much of empirical routinism. In reply it may be said, it is not more routinal than is the treatment for most other diseases. In pneumonia, for instance, bloodletting, antimonials, mercurials are the remedies in comparison with which all others are inefficient and unsatisfactory. In regular practice, hardly a case occurs of the acute disease but these remedies, in the whole or in part, are put in full requisition, Remedies cannot be said to be empirical unless given irrespective of the indications deducible from the symptoms or pathology of the affection."

Here is science for you. After three thousand years experience, and all the light of the present day, when the ignorant Thomsonian never fails to

cure this affection with his "course of medicine," or some vegetable cathartic and liniment, yet he adds "no known remedy seems better calculated to subdue the inflammation and fever than bloodletting, mercurials and purgatives.

What "learned ignorance"!! Accuse the Medical Reformers of being quacks and mere routinists, when they themselves are the veriest empirics of the land. They pursue one course for every thing—the lancet, calomel and opium—calomel, opium and lancet—opium, lancet and calomel—and so on through all forms of disease. Who are the routinists? The same remedies for *pneumonia* that are given for *rheumatism*! If ye, wise ones of Esculapius, have not heard of the Podophylline Phytalecine, Sanguin, and the vapor bath for the cure of rheumatism? if you know of no remedies but "mercurials, bloodletting, &c.," pray call upon the first *Root doctor* you can find, and he will teach you the efficacy of some roots, that will at once satisfy your "longings for medicines new and more efficacious."

PROF. BUCHANAN ON ECLECTICISM.

In the introductory lecture of Prof. Buchanan, delivered to the Class in Cincinnati on the 6th of Nov. 1854, he makes the following remarks "It is not desirable to prefix any qualification to your title of Doctor of Medicine, that title is sufficient to signify that you are properly prepared, worthy of confidence and familiar with your professional resources. That title is perfectly intelligible, but the title of Eclectic Physician is not. One will suppose it merely a new sectarian designation, another will suppose it to signify *a loose and indecisive course of practice, a system composed of scraps of various doctrines, decisive in none.*"

What will those say, who have been such sticklers for *Eclecticism*, and for the term *Eclectic*, to this opinion of one who is almost considered as the quintessence of Eclecticism, the head of this "system composed of scraps of various doctrines, decisive in none!" How very expressive of Eclecticism is the above quotation from this address. We have seldom seen a sentence that seemed to convey so correct and true a definition of what we have regarded as the so called Eclectic system of Medical Practice. Surely none so capable of defining this word or giving the true idea of this *system* as the talented author of this address.

We see in this remark, as well as in the whole tenor of the address, a disposition to destroy the barriers between Reform, Medicine and Allopathy. The truth is just as it is stated by Prof. Buchanan, that Eclecticism is only *progressive Allopathy, no distinguishing features, no principles* on which to found a distinction, but "*a system composed of scraps, &c.*" For the sake

of truth, do let our friends of true Medical Reform see the course to which such a "system" leads its followers, and how soon what is now *called eclecticism* will be swallowed up in Allopathy. We have long since predicted this, and hope it will soon take place; for the success of Medical Reform depends upon a complete and thorough separation of Allopathic and Medical Reform, theories and principles.

If we have no distinctive name, how are we to have any distinctive principles, and who is to distinguish the true from the false.

MISTAKES IN POISONOUS MEDICATION.

ONE of the minor evils of the use of poisonous medicines, is in the mistakes that are constantly made by our Allopathic Druggists. Besides the *over doses*, taken by the ignorant patient; and even the *medicinal doses* which so often prove injurious, there is a most lamentable ignorance on the part of the great body of the Druggists in the U. States in reference to the prescriptions which are sent to them. If we add to these things, the innumerable mistakes made by the carelessness of physicians in writing the contracted Latin, it is a wonder that there is not 50 deaths to one which now happens although they are of almost daily occurrence in this city. We lately cut the following from a city paper, the Times:—

"We have recently had access to upwards of two thousand prescriptions. About fifteen hundred of them showed that the writers were entirely ignorant of the declensions to which the nouns used belonged. Many of them were written in pencil, and almost illegible. If a medical man be applied to in bed for a prescription, he may be excused for using a pencil, but in no other situation. Before a prescription reaches an apothecary it is, not uncommonly, well creased and thumbed, and, if in pencil, next to illegible. No patient who is able to pay his physician should accept from him a prescription in pencil, or one which is indistinctly written. Such lead only to mistakes.

"When an erroneous prescription is presented at a drug store, the prescription, if the druggist be ignorant of his business, is made up exactly as it is written. If the druggist knows the nature and quality of medicines, the prescription should be sent to the physician to be corrected. But as no professional man likes to be convicted of an error, it is very seldom that he hears of his own mistakes. A conscientious apothecary informed us, that when he first commenced business, he made a practice of sending all erroneous prescriptions back, but as he invariably lost the custom of the medical men to whom these were sent, he changed his *system* and corrected the mistakes himself.

"We are informed of a fatal mistake which occurred a few weeks ago. A prescription in which a most unusual quantity of prussic acid, with three or four other ingredients, was ordered and left at a drug store. The clerk of the store hesitated to put up the prescription in the absence of his employer, and, unwilling to lose a little custom, stated that it was necessary to send down town for one of the ingredients, and that the medicine would be ready in an hour or two. The patient was anxious for the medicine and sent twice for it. He soon called a third time and stated that if it was not ready, to give him the prescription and his father would get the medicine elsewhere. The prescription was returned and made up by some one more ignorant or less scrupulous, and next day the lady was dead of a diseased heart! Diseased hearts cover a multitude of mistakes!"

How much safer to confine all our prescriptions to those harmless vegetable remedies, which are not only far more efficacious, but which act in perfect harmony with the physiological laws. As long as poisons are used as medicines so long will these mistakes occur.

THE ADULTERATION OF DRUGS IN NEW YORK.

The Daily Times of the 19th, Dec. 1854, has a most excellent article on "the abuses in the retail Drug Trade." The editor does not spare the "*profession*" at all, and we look upon this manly attack, as another evidence of the decline of the popular favor with which the practice of Old School medicine has been so long regarded. There can be no doubt, but there is a lamentable ignorance among our Druggists of the Allopathic School, they ought to be able to detect spurious drugs, but alas, they fail in this, and are guilty of sins of commission as well as of omission. But let the Times speak for the Druggists.

"There is more ignorance or rascality displayed in the drug trade than in any other. The quantity of spurious drugs which is introduced daily into New-York is immense. Besides, the adulterating of drugs is carried on as a regular business in this City. It is only a short time ago since an advertisement appeared in one of our cotemporaries for upwards of a week, 'for a person acquainted with the adulteration of drugs.' No doubt the advertiser had, to use a business phrase, 'a host of applicants.' The sale of these adulterated drugs proves one of two things: First, that the retail druggists, being ignorant of their business, buy these drugs as genuine of the wholesale houses; or that, being acquainted with their business, they buy them for the sake of the extra profit which such drugs will fetch. It is not uncommon for even 'respectable' druggists to 'palm off,' at sixpence an ounce, common senna, which costs fifteen cents a pound, for Alexandria, which costs from

seven to nine cents a pound extra. Three hundred per cent profit would satisfy most traders, but the druggists go in for from four to five hundred per cent, and as much more as they can get, but inasmuch as much of their stock is perishable, and they are obliged to keep a large assortment for which there is very little call, this percentage is not as unfair as may at first seem."

It is a fact worthy of being known that a large number of these Drug Stores belong to physicians, but as it would be rather "*unprofessional*" to be connected with a store, they carry on the business under another name. They secure the services of some foreigner or other gentleman who has been unfortunate in mercantile pursuits, and for a small compensation he is at once installed as chief of the pestle and mortar. The owner sends all his prescriptions to *his own store*, and with the vending of the whole range of patent nostrums, a large and thriving business succeeds. The way these Drug shops are got up is explained by the following from this same article.

"As the imitation and adulteration of drugs is not confined to the wholesale houses, neither are all the other rascalities in the business to be laid at their door.

"Our readers cannot fail to have noticed the great number of drug-stores which are daily advertised for sale in all parts of the City. The preparing and stocking of these stores for sale is carried on as a regular business. An old mechanic, or bankrupt dry goods man, has sometimes two stores 'doing an excellent family business, in most desirable localities,' for sale. Before the stores are advertised, a complete supply of tinctures are made up—and such tinctures! The directions of all the dispensaries are set at naught. The tinctures (!) are made up without any regard to quality. Cheapness and profit are the only objects in view. A complete stock of the best imitation of genuine medicines is laid in, fictitious transactions are entered in the 'Daily Cash Book,' and the daily sales are increased by a convenient arithmetical process. And now the store is ready for sale."

GThe following are out spoken and manly truths from an old school physician. How shall we recognize the use of *poison* and *depletive* agents in the treatment of disease, since they must in *every instance* oppose nature and thus prevent a cure.

In a lecture recently delivered before a class of medical students, Dr. Campbell, Physician in Chief to the Philadelphia Hospital, gave utterance to the following: "Nature, nature cures diseases, gentlemen. Never forget that. When you get into practice and begin to prescribe largely, you will begin to overlook that fact, and to think that you yourselves and your medicines cure. As soon as you do so, you begin to kill."

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The next Session of the Metropolitan Medical College will commence on the second Tuesday in March, 1855, and continue four months.

F E E S .

The entire fee for Matriculation and Lectures will be	\$100.00
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As we are desirous to accommodate all who wish to enter the profession, if any student is limited in his circumstances and unable to pay the full amount, by making arrangements with the President of the Board and the Faculty, he can be admitted on more favorable terms, which arrangement shall be confidential.

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A. DOOLITTLE, M. D., Pres.

H. M. SWEET, M. D., Sec.

THE
Journal of Medical Reform.
MARCH, 1855.

Selections.

WATER CURE.

WE have been often requested to express our opinion of Water Cure as a system of medical practice. Not having time or space to do justice to the whole subject, and being well convinced that its advocates are working, generally, in the same direction with us, and doing much good—more especially among a class of persons who had learned, from the destructive effects of poisonous drugs, to discard every thing called medicine—and relying much upon water ourself, in its various temperatures and modes of application, for our success in the treatment of every form of disease, we have always bid our aquatic friends God-speed, not desiring to retard their progress by any unimportant criticisms. While they opposed only the use of poisonous drugs and advocated that of water as better, alone, than these, we did not feel it to be our duty to contradict them.

But we have, for some time past, perceived that, having found it easy to show the folly and wickedness of using poisonous drugs and the destructive lancet for the cure of disease, they have become proud and arrogant, and have assumed that *no agent but water* is proper as a medicine, and that *no system but theirs* involves the *true principles of medical science, animal chemistry and rational therapeutics*. It is time, therefore, that, while we cheerfully admit that they have adopted many correct principles, and exercised, in many respects, a very judicious and useful practice, we should kindly point out to them the errors which they are promulgating, and which, if believed and made the basis of practice, will cause them to fail of success and prevent others from adopting the truth and practicing the right in these cases.

We have no prejudice against Water Cure. Fifty years ago,

man had a long run of fever. He had several doctors ; they refused him even a drop of cold water to cool his parched tongue. We thought it *very strange*, when it seemed so *good to us* to drink freely after an excitement which had raised a fever. But we were only a little boy, and those were the days when the doctor's word was the end of all medical controversy.

The fever had run on for several weeks, and the doctors had concluded that patient must die. They had ceased to give him "strong medicine," and were only "relieving him with palliatives." One day he was left alone for a short time : he knew that, in the next or ante-room, stood constantly the pail of pure spring water, and in it the "dipper," from which every thirsty soul that entered quenched his thirst ; he crept out of bed, and, on the floor to the bucket, and drank, like the camel when he enters the desert, as much as he could. He succeeded in creeping back to his bed, but was unable to get into it. Soon he was discovered, most grievously pitied for having fallen out of bed, and very carefully replaced. It was not many minutes before a profuse perspiration broke forth, and, when the doctor came, he was astonished at the favorable crisis ! His palliatives had worked like charms. Henceforward and forever, he would be cautious and follow the illustrious example of the father of the "Expectant practice." More palliatives were left, but the patient rejected them all. It was thought wondrous strange that he should refuse to continue what had done so much good. He told them that, if they would give him as much as he wanted of what had done him the good, he would take it. They solemnly promised, and the secret was revealed ! He took water, food and simple sudorific teas, and in due time recovered. We would be ashamed to say that we had not, ever since, been a friend to water in the treatment of disease. Our mother, who saw this case, always gave her children a plenty of water in the treatment of all acute forms of disease ; and we are well known as a steady opponent of mere pills, powders and concentrated principles, and the advocate of teas and solutions and abundance of water in the treatment of disease in all its various forms.

But, while we believe in water as an invaluable and often an indispensable remedy, whatever others may be used, we know many others more valuable than water for the fulfilment of certain indications in the treatment of disease, and we use them either with or without water, as the case may require. Water from the spring would but poorly relax the muscles for the replacing of a bone ; but lobelia, with or without water, will do it most effectually, and as innocently as it can be done by water, if at all. Cayenne is far superior to water for the rousing of the heart and arteries to action ; and tannin is a preferable astringent in many cases. The science of medicine embraces these and others, as well as water, for the accomplishment of its noble and benevolent designs.

“THE ERROR OF ERRORS.”

HAVING premised these remarks, we are prepared to make some strictures on the sweeping pretensions of the advocates of Water Cure, as a perfect medical system, to have discovered the grand hinge on which the door to the sanctum of true medical science and practice is turning. We select for this purpose Dr. R. T. Trall, because he stands high in the estimation of the friends of his system, and of us also, as one of the best and most extensive writers on the principles and practices of Water Cure, and, on that account, should be the most accurate—as, otherwise, his errors would do much harm—and because we believe that he is capable of rightly observing facts and appreciating arguments, and is so much more imbued with the love of truth perceived than of conquest for error, that we shall have no contention with obstinate prejudice; and, lastly, because he has written so much that is absolutely good, that we shall always have in our mind the esteem we bear him for this to prevent us from treating him with any lightness or disrespect on account of his errors.

In “The New Illustrated Hydropathic Quarterly Review,” p. 256, Dr. Trall says: “I have many times said, and several times written, that the great fundamental fallacy—the error of errors—of the drug system, was a false view of the *modus operandi* of medicinal agents. The doctrine is unanimous throughout the drug-administering part of the medical profession, and even admitted by all the irregular schools, save the ultra faction of the Hydropathists, that drug medicines act upon the living organism; whereas, the truth is exactly the reverse, the living organism acts against them.”

With all due deference to the deliberate positiveness with which this assertion is put forth by Dr. T., we as positively declare that the Old School are right on this point, for they admit both propositions, viz.: that drugs act on the organism, and the organism acts on the drugs—and that he is wrong, for he denies one half of this important truth. It is true that they have wrong notions respecting the nature and character of those actions, and *so has he*. It is also true that this is not “the fundamental fallacy—the error of errors” (the mother of errors)—with either them or him. It is only one of the children of that old, by them yet unrecognized, mother. We say unrecognized, for they all have observed her carelessly, but they do not accord to her the influence which she exerts.

We are aware these may be considered merely *our* “assertions.” But we shall first prove them by the testimony of Dr. Trall, and next demonstrate them by natural evidences that can not be rejected. We ask no one to take our opinion as proof of a position in science.

In support of his position, that “the drug-administering part of the medical profession believe that drugs act on the living organism,”

Dr. Trall says: "We are told, for example, that jalap acts upon the bowels, colomel upon the liver, tartar emetic upon the stomach, opium upon the nerves, squill upon the mucous membrane, thorough-wort upon the skin, nitre upon the kidneys, tobacco upon the salivary glands, iron upon the blood, snuff upon the nose, onions upon the eyes, blisters upon the cuticle, &c."

"If this proposition were true, the popular medical science would have a sound basis; but, being untrue, the basis is unsound." (p. 350-7)

Not only is this proposition true, but more is true. These agents act on all the tissues of the organism with which they come into contact, precisely in the same manner and to the same degree; for, whatever power they possess is not neutralized, increased nor diminished, by their application to different organs, nor to the same organs under different circumstances. All the different results of their administration arise from the difference in the vital impressibility of the organs, and their ability to respond to the impressions made on them. For example, every one knows that tannin and alcohol will harden animal fiber and prevent its decomposition after death. In the same manner, also, it tends to astringe the living fiber. The only reason why "choke cherries," oak bark, &c., do not, when chewed, make leather of the mucous membrane of the mouth, is the resistance which the vital force offers to the operation. The living tissue will resist the action of a dilution of sulphuric acid that would immediately destroy the same tissue after the protecting vital power had fled.

As in the last number (p. 106), under the head of "One Ideaism," we refuted these same doctrines, we shall here be brief on these two points of proof, and attend more particularly to "the error of errors."

First, then, Dr. Trall, himself, disproves his own position and sustains the one that he denies. He says "medicines do not act on the organism," and proves it by saying: "When salts are admitted into the domain of life, the organic sensibilities recognize an enemy—their action is roused to defend the machinery of life." How, brother Trall, can they recognize an enemy and be roused to action by an agent that does not act upon them? You will say by its mere presence. But will this, if admitted, explain why they are roused to relaxation at the presence of salts and antimony, and to contraction at the presence of tannin and geranium, and to both at that of bayberry? Must there not be a different action produced by these several agents? and, if so, must they not all act in some way? seeing that, without their presence, the action of the organs would be uniform and normal.

The doctor says: "We have a demonstration of our theory, in the fact that the most powerful cathartics of the drug *materia medica* are invariably the most violent poisons."

First, this is not quite a "fact" (truth). Jalap, apocynum, jug-

lans, leptandra, gamboge, colocynth, podophyllum, and a multitude of other cathartics are far more powerful than calomel, but the whole of them put together are not capable of doing half the mischief that is often wrought by that "mild cathartic" of the mineral kingdom.

But, secondly, the admission that some articles are "violent poisons" is an admission of a difference in the influence of different articles on the organism—of course that they all act to some extent, and in some direction. Now, as there can be no difference between two nothings, the effect of poisons and non-poisons, or of "violent poisons" and weak ones, must be something—hence, Dr. Trall proves that medicines do act on the organism. *Q. E. D.* Since, however, this error of the Doctor's is the basis of Hydropathic science, we must not dismiss it lightly.

Dr. T. says further: "The more virulent and dangerous to life is the purgative taken into the alimentary canal, the more vigorous will be the efforts of the organism to defend itself and get rid of it; and, as a consequence, the greater the catharsis."

This does not quite accord with fact. Calomel, a virulent poison, excites mild catharsis—juglans and leptandra are perfectly harmless in their nature, but much more exciting than calomel; but, suppose they were all deadly poisons, and did "not act upon the organism," what would arouse the "efforts of the organism," and against what would it strive so vigorously and violently "to defend itself?" Our friend Trall may be excused for fighting against windmills, as he acts from choice or fancy; but, does he suppose that "the organism" ever "beats the air," or acts without stimulus? We think not.

The Doctor says: "This is a problem which constitutes the essential point of difference between their system of treating diseases with drugs and our system of treating them by hygienic agencies alone."

If by "drugs" the Doctor meant only poisons, and by "hygienic agencies" he included innocent medicines, we would not criticise him as we do, though he would not then be strictly correct. But his sin would be one of difference between him and poisons, and in his favor—therefore, we should "let him slide." But he will not allow us so to understand him. In his term "drugs," he intends to involve the remedies of the Physio-Medical practice, which are as innocent and efficient as water, and require no more knowledge nor skill in their application.

We have shown that this is *not* the essential point of difference between Hydropathists and others, for the latter include the former. They admit that the organism acts on the medicines, as well as the medicines on the organism. Prof. Chapman, in his "Elements of Therapeutics" (p. 42) says: "The only point of controversy which seems to be conceded is, that the operation of medicines does not depend on any of the common laws of matter, but on a principle incident to vitality alone"—and he quotes, "*Medicamenta non agunt in*

cadaver." Medicines do not act in the dead body. Here is Dr. Trall's theory, as admitted by both the ancients and the moderns. But Prof. Chapman says again (p. 43): "But this is the case only when the vital energies are in vigorous and healthy condition." [He should have said, only when they are superior to the extraneous.] "Different, indeed, is the result when, from debility or other imperfection [or the excess of extraneous power over the vital, if ever so healthy], the vital organs are rendered unfit to act upon substances, or of resisting the *action of substances* on the system. Whatever is taken into the stomach, under such circumstances, preserves its properties unaltered, or undergoes the same sort of alteration which it would undergo out of the body, or beyond the sphere of vital powers. Each article, in this state, obeys the order of its affinities, and the changes which occur are purely chemical [not always; they are sometimes compounded, as in suppuration]. Common matter now acting by its own laws [as it always does], the system, thus languid and decayed, sinks under an attack it cannot repel, and fermentation and putrefaction or other processes ensue which, if not timely arrested, become the precursors as well as the causes of death and destruction."

It is now *proved* that the doctrine that "the organism acts on the remedies" is not "the problem which constitutes the essential point of difference between Hydropathy and Allopathy," for the latter includes the action of both, and is, therefore, right; while the former includes the action of only one, and is, therefore, but half right.

Dr. T. says, that "drug-administering" doctors treat their patients with drugs, and "his system treats them by hygienic *agencies* alone." What is the propriety of using the term "*agencies*" to even his own remedies, seeing he denies that food or water acts upon the system? Can that be called an agent which never acts?

"We have, thus far, been unable to induce our opponents to meet us in the discussion of this subject. They will neither defend their explanation nor attack ours; nor can we induce many of them to investigate the subject sufficiently to understand our side of the question at all. The few who have done so, to their credit be it said, have abandoned the trade of drug medicines in disgust."

To obtain a knowledge of his position, we sent, several times, our paper for an exchange, but the Doctor did not deign to let the light of his countenance shine upon us. We bought his works, and learned his sentiments and ways. We have stated the reasons why we did not criticise them before. He will now see that we have both "defended our explanation" of the *modus operandi* of remedies, and "attacked his"—that we are among those who "have investigated the subject sufficiently to understand it," and yet that "we have not abandoned" all that he calls "drugs in disgust."

There is one very important point in which both Dr. T. and all his opponents, "save the ultra faction of the Physio-Medicals," is wrong. It is, that they make no distinction between poisonous drugs

and innocent medicines, or those agents which invite the organism to healthy action, and aid them in its performances—as coloric, electricity, water, cayenne, slippery elm, &c.; and those that provoke it to excitement against them, and tend to impede its movements, as arsenic, opium, &c.: between those that do injury only by the degree or quantity or misapplication of their power, and those that “are in their nature inimical to the human constitution.” These errorists include all who believe that every thing or nothing is poisonous, according to the use that is made of it. Dr. T. may say that he does not believe that “any drugs” are hygienic, but he can not say they are mischievous, without admitting that they “act upon the organism.” Nor can he make any distinction between the different articles of food he recommends, without the same admission.

What, then, is the real difference between Allopathy and Hydropathy?

Answer: Allopathy uses *all sorts of agents*, good and bad, “without the guidance of any therapeutic principle;” while Hydropathy uses, quite judiciously, *water and various other medicinal agents*, under the names of food, air, exercise, &c.

In another article, we will show some of the differencies and correspondencies between Hydropathy and the Physio-Medical system, which are nearer to each other in their principles and practices than any other two systems. The latter including of the former all that is true and good. And, if time and space will allow, we will also show what is the fundamental error of Allopathy, which both the Physio-Medical system and Hydropathy have discarded.

We have not made this criticism on Dr. T. to oppose him and impede his glorious progress; but, because he is so nearly and so generally right, we wish to prevent him from ever going wrong.—*Physio-Medical Recorder.*

PODOPHYLLINE, A SUBSTITUTE FOR MERCURY.

The following article we clip from the Boston Med. & Surg. Jour. It is an evidence that the Old School are beginning to use our remedies. But we must protest against the combination of poisons with our sanative agents. There is no necessity of adding the ipecac, the hyoscyamus or the colcynth. The podophylline is better combined with the Leptandrine or alone, far superior to this addition of these poisons and drastic articles.

It is like adding opium to lobelia for an antispasmodic, when every experienced Reformer knows that Lobelia alone acts well enough without the addition of this poison. Light begins to dawn on the darkened mind of our Allopathic friends.

What an argument we here have for the *exclusiveness* for which we are censured by some of our Eclectic practitioners. If this distinction is not kept up, how soon Reform will become so, only

in name, and *modified* Allopathy, with all its errors and mystifying theories will become dominant.— [Ed.]

“Medical men have been charged with not being alive to the spirit of the age, and it has been said that while continual advancement was made in the other professions, the science of medicine remained stationary. This charge is untrue; the *materia medica* is constantly increasing in the number of its articles, offering new remedies for the treatment of diseases, and these medicines being duly tested by the touchstone of practice will receive their just place in the pharmacopœia.

“The science of organic chemistry is as yet almost unknown, but already valuable discoveries have been made in separating the “active principles” of vegetables from the woody fibre, starch, &c., with which they are connected in their natural state.

“The attention of the profession should be directed more to the use of these “active principles,” which possess so many valuable qualities, and by means of which the physician is enabled to rival the homœopathist in the size of the dose; and also that the stomach need no longer be the physician’s laboratory, and be so often offended by the nauseous draught.

“My object in writing is to call the attention of the profession to the active principles of the plant *Podophyllum peltatum*. The root of this plant, made into a decoction, has for a long time been used in this section of the country in domestic practice, whenever a brisk cathartic was required, and when exhibited in this form it was apt to produce uneasiness in the stomach and bowels. About eighteen months since, I commenced the use of podophylline, having for a long time desired an article which would act as an alterative in arousing the secretions in the same manner as mercurials, and yet have none of the unpleasant and disagreeable effects of these medicines. By continued watching of the operations of this medicine, among persons of every age and temperature, and in both sexes, I have come to the conclusion that in Podophylline we have the desired alterative, without any of the dangerous or disagreeable effects sometimes caused by mercurials.

“I have used podophylline with the greatest advantage to the patient in all those cases where some of the various compounds of mercury were formerly recommended, for the purpose of arousing the action of the great secretory organs, and especially those of the liver. In cases of habitual costiveness, this remedy has acted like a charm, its effects remaining sometime after ceasing its use. In one case, where from chronic functional disease of the liver an habitual costiveness was produced, which had formerly been treated by drastic cathartics, purges, calomel, blue pill, &c., it yielded to the daily use of one eighth of a grain of Podophylline for a month, and for six months the patient was entirely exempt from her former difficulties;

and these returning again, the same medicine was given, with its former success.

"As an alterative, this medicine excels all of the mercurials; and the following are the forms in which I administer it:—R. Podophylline, gr. j.; ipecac. pulv., comp. ext. colocynth, aa grs. iv.; syr. acacia gummi, q. s. M. Ft. 8 pills. S. One to be taken every evening. R. Podophylline, gr. j.; ipecac. pulv., grs. v.; hyoseyamus ext., q. s. M. Ft. 20 pills. S. One to be taken every morning and evening. In infants, when the bowels are sluggish, and an alterative is indicated, the following prescription is used:—R. Podophylline gr. ss.; sach. alb. pulv., dr. ij. M. Divide into 24 or 62 powders. S. One to be taken at night."—*Boston Med. Jour.*

Wm. R. BATES.

Morris, Otsego Co., N. Y., January, 1855.

BARBER SURGEONS.

The following extract we quote from the Introductory Lecture of Prof. J. B. Flint of the Kentucky School of Medicine. It affords some items of interest in relation to the early history of Surgery.—*Ed.*

We have only to consider what an important appendage to the person the beard was considered, in former times—the symbol of wisdom in the sage, of force in the soldier, of piety in the saint, and a favorite subject in the domain of fashion, even to the present day—in order to understand that it was no ignoble art whose services were devoted to the culture and embellishment of so significant, and sometimes sacred a feature, in the human physiognomy. Long before the edict of Tours, the barbers had joined to the use of the razor, a variety of employments, more or less subservient to the health as well as to the appearance of persons. They administered baths, superintended gymnastic exercises, dispensed perfumery, &c., and it is not strange that, when surgery had been degraded into artisanship, this was the class of artists which assumed its exercise.

In a little volume full of medical curiosities, published by William Wadd, an old English surgeon, is the following account of the barber-surgeons, which, as few of you will have an opportunity of access to the book, I copy and read to you, at large:

"Edward the Fourth, in the year 1461, granted the charter of incorporation to barber-surgeons, and the barber and surgeon continued in the same firm for three centuries. The barber was originally introduced into surgery by the priest, who was the chief practitioner of the dark ages. The barber, after shaving the head of the priest, was sometimes employed to shave the head of his patient, and finding these fellows handy with edge tools, they taught them to make salves, dress wounds, and bleed. Such was the origin of barber-surgery. In the fourteenth century, however, the barbers pushed themselves

forward so much in the practice of surgery, that in France the legislature interfered ; but the barber's old friend, the priest, putting in a word for them, they were admitted into a newly-formed surgical establishment, under the title of *barber-surgeons* ; and the copartnership between surgery and shaving has existed in France and England till very lately ; nay, till so very near the present time was this foolery continued, that, 'would heart of man e'er think it,' says the philosophical and facetious Abernethy, 'even I myself have doffed my cap to barber-surgeons.' While this union of the surgeons and barbers continued, surgery retrograded ; in truth, surgery, while united with barbery, might fairly enough have been said to have been *barbarous* ; and a more curious proof of it cannot, perhaps, be given than the following order, which appears in the minute books of the court of assistants, dated July 13, 1587, relative to the disposal of any subject that be daring enough to come to life after being brought to the hall for dissection :

"Item. It is agreed that if anybody which shall at any time hereafter happen to be brought to the Hall, for the intent to be wrought upon by the Thanatomists (*sic*) of the Company, shall revive or come to life again as of late hath been, the charges about the same body so reviving, shall be borne, seen, levied and sustained by the person or persons who shall happen to bring home the body, and further, they shall abide such order or fine as this house shall award.'

"Another proof might be found in a by-law, by which they levied ten pounds on any person who should dissect a body out of their hall without leave.

"The prudent reign of Henry VII. produced a considerable alteration in the state of England, by the increase of the population, and a consequent increase in the number of subjects. In this reign Lues first made its appearance, and produced the most dreadful ravages. The necessity for Surgeons, therefore, increased, and few there were who confined themselves entirely to that profession. These few were, in fact, ten in number, whose portraits have been handed down to us in one of the finest efforts of Holbein's pencil, where these ten worthies are represented on their knees before Henry VII., who confirmed the charter of the Surgeons of London. This celebrated painting is now in the possession of the barbers, who gave one hundred and fifty guineas to Barron to engrave it—one hundred in money, and fifty by subscription, for a hundred prints. It was once borrowed by King James I., and his letter on this occasion asserts that the portrait of the king was both like him and well done.

"The co-partnership between barbers and surgeons was not confined to the metropolis, but existed in different parts of the kingdom ; and we find a branch of the fraternity at Newcastle, ordering (1742) that 'no brother should shave on a Sunday,' and moreover 'that no

one should shave John Robinson till he pays what he owes to John Shafto.'

"It is a curious circumstance, that the act which united the companies separated the professions. It is equally curious, and not less absurd, that though by a special clause it was enacted 'that no barber shall occupy anything belonging to surgery, drawing of teeth only excepted ;' yet the reason for this union was, that by their assembling together, the science and faculty of surgery should be improved. So that those that did practice surgery were often to meet and assemble with those who did not, '*to be improved both in speculation and practice,*' " &c., &c.

NEW-YORK PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Nov. 8. *Dr. Cock* exhibited a specimen of cancer of the cerebellum, taken from a colored child two years old. Three children of the family had before died ; one with tuberculous meningitis, the others with tuberculous disease of the lungs. The day after the death of a brother, the child was seized with a convulsion, which was not of long continuance. Renewed attacks of convulsions soon ensued, the child becoming sick at the stomach and losing the use of his limbs. His general health failed at the end of two months, and for the last six months of his life he was bed-ridden. His bowels were constipated. On a post-mortem examination of the brain, the lateral ventricles were each found to contain from four to five fluid ounces of serum. The cerebellum was strongly adherent on the right side of the tentorium. On removing it, a portion of the cerebellum remained, attached to the dura mater. There was a softened cerebral mass as large as a hen's egg. Microscopial examination did not definitely settle the character of the tumor. The lungs were studded with miliary tubercles.

Dr. Clark exhibited the oesophagus of a man who died at Bellevue Hospital. He had been there a long time, slowly emaciating. He had difficulty in deglutition, a little food being generally rejected. There was inability to take any solid food for three months, until within a few days of his death, when a probang being passed down the oesophagus, at the distance of six or seven inches from the mouth, an impediment was felt to give way before the pressure. After this the patient ate more easily until he died. At the post-mortem examination a cheesy mass, resembling cancer, was found attached to the oesophagus below the clavicle. Under the microscope it appeared to be composed chiefly of epithelium. There was another tumor of the same material on the outside of the stomach. The mesenteric glands were somewhat enlarged, whitened and hardened by tubercle.

Dr. Alex. H. Stevens stated the result of his observation to be, that organic stricture of the oesophagus is always malignant ; and

that the same is true of organic strictures of the colon. He had never known a stricture of the small intestine.

Dr. Bucić had seen two cases of stricture of the œsophagus during the past month. Both were in its upper part, and both involved the larynx. They were malignant.

Dr. Schilling had seen a case of stricture of the œsophagus not malignant.

Dr. White had seen a case treated twenty years ago. The patient is still living.

Dr. Isaac Wood's experience confirms *Dr. Steven's* opinion.

Dr. Clark mentioned a case of great contraction of the stomach, from drinking sulphuric acid. He thinks that stricture of the œsophagus is generally malignant. More than one specimen of malignant stricture of the small intestine had been presented to this society, and *Cruvelhier* also gives a plate of malignant stricture of the small intestine.

Dr. Edward H. Parker exhibited the brain of a man about sixty years old, which he observed presented some points of unusual interest, though he regretted that the history of the case was not so complete as could have been desired. The man was admitted to one of our charitable institutions early last August, and was then suffering from delirium tremens. The ordinary treatment of the institution consisting chiefly in the use of opium was adopted, and he recovered so far as to recognise his medical attendant, as having had the charge of him previously. His appetite returned, he slept naturally, and was considered as fairly convalescent. Paralysis especially of the lower extremities began to manifest itself, which increased till the urine was discharged involuntarily, and his limbs became entirely inactive. The paralysis increased, till during the last few days of his life he lay in a state of complete insensibility, his breathing being slow and stertorous. Upon opening the cranium eighteen hours after death, an uncertain quantity of bloody serum escaped. Otherwise, the brain presented the appearances still manifest—the dura mater of the left side is thickened and presents in its substance a bright red spot like a stain, but which by its greater thickness and marked edge, indicates the presence of a coagulum of effused blood. The centre of the clot is about two inches from the median line of the brain and in a position corresponding to the top of the head, when the parts were in their natural position. The size of this spot is a little greater than that of a quarter of a dollar. The dura mater of the right side is similarly thickened, but there is found lying between it and the surface of the brain, a large clot about six inches in length, four in width, and one-half inch in thickness in its middle, where it is the thickest. Its outline is oval. From what vessel the blood came is not clear—only it did not come from those of the brain, as is evident on raising the clot. The firmest coagulation is at a point corresponding to the position of the smaller clot on the other side. In the lat-

eral ventricles there was found a drachm of serum in each, together with small vesicles in the choroid plexus. The substance of the brain appears to be of a natural consistence. On the top of each hemisphere, there are evidences of meningitis, and effusion of lymph to a greater or less degree, over a space as large as the palm of the hand. Dr. P. remarked that the case was interesting, as being a sequent of delirium tremens, and one of the few instances where after this disease there has been evidence of an unusual amount of blood in the head. It was more interesting, however, as a specimen of idiopathic apoplexy, in this position between the dura mater and the surface of the brain—a rare occurrence. The only doubt as to its being from such a cause arose from the possibility of an injury having been received either by a blow or fall. There was, however, no post mortem appearance of any violence, and the whole history of the case showed that there had been none.

The society then passed to the consideration of the special order of the evening, the discussion of the pathology and treatment of cholera.

Dr. Clark stated that the most common manifestation of the cholera poison is a change in the mucous membrane of the alimentary canal, allied to inflammation. These changes which sometimes consist merely of congestion of the membrane, often proceed till the epithelial coat is removed, and ulceration and sloughing take place. They are found at one time in the upper, at another in the lower part of the intestinal canal. His statement was illustrated by the exhibiting of dried and recent portions of the small intestine taken from cholera subjects. The specimens showed more or less congestion and Peyer's patches were vascular and in some instances ulcerated. Perigoff's plates were also used to illustrate his meaning, and to confirm his opinion. He remarked that the causes of the disease must be looked for back of these conditions. He thought it depended on some change in the nerves, and an influence proceeding probably from the ganglionic system. He thought it might be stated that there is a "substantial external poison" floating in the air and carried by the blood to the ganglionic nervous system, producing changes in the nervous system, which are immediately reflected in the intestinal canal.

Dr. Stevens doubted if there was a poison added to the air.

Dr. Batchelder asked how the absence of all the sequelæ of inflammation could be accounted for if cholera was an inflammatory disease?

Dr. Schilling stated, as the result of about fifty post mortem examinations, that he had seen every sign of inflammation in the lining membrane of the intestinal canal of persons dead of cholera; and in addition to the appearances described, he had frequently noticed white exudations on the serous membranes.

As to the treatment of the disease, *Dr. Hutchison*, of the Brook-

lyn Cholera Hospital, said that which was most beneficial consisted in the first place of an emetic dose of solution of common salt or mustard, if nausea or vomiting was present. In a majority of cases this would quiet the stomach, so that nutriment and other remedies were well retained. If the stomach was not quieted in this way, no remedies seemed to have any influence in producing this effect, large doses of calomel, effervescing draughts, creosote, powdered ice, lime water and milk, and indeed all other remedies commonly used for this purpose alike failing. Very obstinate vomiting was observed more especially in females, and in those obstinate cases the matter discharged was of a bright green color, very slightly acid to test paper, or quite as often neutral, and no bile indicated by the usual tests.

After the action of the emetic one grain of calomel was given every hour, and continued till twelve or fifteen grains were taken. The rice water discharges would gradually become less frequent and copious, and bile would usually begin to appear after ten or twelve doses of calomel. Beef tea was given *pro re nata*. An epispastic was almost invariably applied over the abdomen, and the hot air bath was in many cases a valuable adjunct. In the early part of the epidemic, stimulants were freely used, but so small a proportion of those cases recovered in which they were supposed to be indicated, and consequently administered, that they were abandoned. A great variety of remedies were tested, but none were found so satisfactory as those mentioned. Opium and astringents were allowed in a few cases only, by way of experiment. Vomiting and purging, especially when the discharges were of the rice-water nature, were regarded as favorable symptoms; and indeed, whenever a patient was admitted with these symptoms, if the alvine discharges were not involuntary, (no matter how copious) his recovery was predicted with a great deal of certainty. In cases attended with yellowish or light brown discharges, the prognosis was more grave.

In those cases marked by obstinate vomiting, all remedies were withdrawn, even when there was blueness of the surface, its temperature much depressed, and the pulse scarcely perceptible. The patient was allowed to rest quietly twelve or fifteen hours, when the stomach would become quieted so as to retain nourishment and convalescence soon follow. This *let alone* practice was also adopted in some cases of profound collapse, which were considered to be beyond the reach of remedies. This, Dr. H. thinks, is the most valuable/experience obtained in the Brooklyn Cholera Hospital.

The mortality in those cases admitted before the stage of complete collapse was reached, amounted to 5.88 per cent.; of those admitted in complete collapse, 82 per cent. terminated fatally; 28 per cent. of this class of cases reacted and died of consecutive diseases, chiefly congestion of the brain, in the early part of the epidemic, and dysentery towards its close. The whole number of cholera cases admitted was 144. .

CURIOSITIES OF MEDICAL SCIENCE.

It does not require a microscopic ken to detect the fact, that the science of medicine holds as it deserves, the most exalted position in civilized society—standing out in bold relief among the profession, the decided friend to humanity, and affording the only hope that mankind will be taught to regard life, health, and thought, as existing and the supervision of laws, as clear and definable as those which relate to the solar system. When we comprehend the extent of the science, its intricacies and peculiarities, we shall not fail to observe why so many gifted intellects have chosen the profession of medicine as the business of their lives. The student of Nature finds ample material for the mind to digest, while the humane and benevolent are furnished by it with a never failing mine of wealth with which to succor and relieve the most unfortunate of earth's inhabitants—a diseased humanity. Medicine is, emphatically, the science of man—it is Anthropology, and therefore claims our earnest consideration. There is nothing narrow or contracted about it; all is not told in a day that may be conceived of any of its parts. The Professor who speaks ninety hours (which is about the average time in a course of lectures at any of our medical schools) on Anatomy, endeavoring to teach the location, structure, &c., of this complicated organism, and winds up by saying, "Gentlemen, I have only briefly noticed the most important facts in anatomical science, upon which your professional skill is to be based," is certainly not dealing with a simple subject, easy of comprehension, and unworthy of serious thought.

But Anatomy is not the only part of medical education; Physiology, Pathology, Therapeutics, Surgery, Obstetrics, Materia Medica, Botany, Chemistry, Medical Jurisprudence and Practice. In most of our medical colleges, we have eight professorships—giving seven lectures each day, of one hour each; or in the aggregate no less than six hundred and seventy-two lectures in each course of sixteen weeks. Now in an hour, a fluent speaker would say as much as might be written on thirty pages of an octavo book; so that if what is taught in one of our medical colleges in a single course of lectures, should be reported and printed, it would make forty volumes of five hundred pages each! This certainly argues that the studies of the physician are anything less than trifling. But even this amount of information is not thought to be sufficient, for the *Faculties*, almost without exception, contend that more time should be allowed them to explain, illustrate, and impress the truths of the several branches of medicine. To remedy this, they mostly require of a student an attendance upon four courses of lectures, or study equivalent thereto, before they will acknowledge him eligible to become a candidate for the honors of the institution.

It will thus be seen that the science of medicine covers a large

area, and affords the expanded mind abundant material for digestion.

But collaterally it stretches its arms out still further, pointing out to the legislator certain natural laws presiding over the human race, which if interfered with by civil enactments, will seriously retard the development of mind and body, and increase crime and misery to a limitless extent. It invades the province of Geography, and studies the ethnographic peculiarities of the race. By the light of Geology it invades the remote antediluvian ages, and gleans important facts, easy of application and essential to a medical education. It studies Political Economy, so as to determine what features of society benefit, and which prove injurious to man's well-being. Agriculture, Architecture, Music, Religion—all are scrutinized by the medical philosopher, from all of which he gathers important data from which to reason.

This is the science of sciences, because it has to do with that which has most to do with our happiness—our health, life, social being. It is no wonder, then, that it should occupy such a high position in society; nor is it a matter of surprise that some of the first intellects in every age should have been so devoted to this "*ars artium.*" Medical men nowhere contend that the science of medicine is perfect, though judging from the slow progress made by it for many ages previous to the beginning of the present century, we should be led to suppose that its advocates had began to suspect as much, or that they had despaired of unravelling the mysteries of the complicated human organism.—*Powell & Newton's Practice.*

Original Communications.

CUTANEOUS DISEASES.

BY PROF. I. M. COMINGS.

THE next class of cutaneous affections are those termed the *Squamæ*, or scaly. The cuticle is separated, more or less, either in fine grains or in large portions; there is no ulceration, no pus, no serum, not any other fluid effused under the cuticle, but the cuticle is separated, and not only separated, as in common inflammation, but thickened and diseased. In this order of affections, there are three species, and they are of common occurrence. They are not contagious and may occur at various times during life. The three forms of this disease we will now describe, they are *Pityriasis*, *Lepra* and *Psoriasis*.

PITYRIASIS.

The first mentioned, is a very simple and slight form. The scales are exceedingly thin, and the affection altogether very superficial. When it occurs in the head of children, it is called pityriasis *capitis* or dandruff of the head, a fine powder falls off in all directions. It derives its name from a Greek word which means *bran* (*πιτυρόν*),

Occasionally the inflammation under these scales is considerable, and then it is called pityriosis *rubra*.

Treatment.—Little treatment is required except perfect cleanliness. If however this should not be sufficient, it will be best to pursue the same course we have recommended for lichen and prurigo, such as diaphoretics, vapor bath and general alterative treatment.

LEPRA.

This disease is somewhat similar to psoriasis, the next form we describe, and it is called by this name to prevent it from being confounded with that. It does not mean *leprosy* as is described by the ancients, but simply a slight scaly circular eruption, with red margins a little elevated. The cuticle is sometimes very much thickened, and sometimes very white and silvery. It first appears in dots, varying in size from that of a pin's head, to that of a pea ; and these dots become confluent and form patches. We often see them about the elbow and below the knee. We also see it about the occiput, and behind the ears, and it will sometimes affect the face and whole scalp. The character of the disease is shown more in one part than in another ; and it is a good general rule when investigating cutaneous affections not to be satisfied with looking at one part of the body: for the disease may be badly characterized at one part and extremely well characterized at another. It is best, in examining these complaints to examine the whole body: and in doing so, we shall come to one part where the disease is so characteristic, that we may name it without difficulty. The patches, in lepra, are sometimes as large as a dollar and the disease much more frequently affects the extremities than the trunk : but it is often about the head.

The most common form of this disease is lepra *vulgaris*. It usually assumes a circular form, with red, elevated margins, and when they heal, they generally do so from the centre. Another species is lepra *alphoides*, here the scales are silvery, very like the scales of a fish. When the scales are dark colored it is called lepra *nigricans*. It is enough for us to remember that the scales are sometimes white and sometimes black and this is just as well as to tax our memories with *alphoides* and *nigricans*. It is a great mercy that we have no other names given for the intermediate shades.

This disease seldom attacks infants or young children ; it is seen in persons from 10 or 12, up to 25 and 30. The cause of this complaint is somewhat obscure. Occasionally it can be traced to drinking cold water when over heated. Negligence in bathing the surface may be the cause, or it may arise from some internal disease. Some authors think it is contagious, but there is hardly proof to sustain this opinion.

Treatment.—The same treatment here may be recommended as in the last form of disease. The vapor bath will always be found to be beneficial, so also the warm bath. For external use, there is no-

thing perhaps better than a wash of spirits terpentine and soft soap ; a teaspoonful of each, diluted a little with water, will afford an excellent wash, for all forms of scaly eruptions.

The simple tincture of Lobelia, or the 3d Preparation is also a very sure remedy.

PSORIASIS.

This bears a great affinity to lepra and may be said to run into it. The only difference is that in psoriasis, the patches or spots are not circular, but more or less oblong ; the margin is not raised, and it seems to heal from the margin rather than the centre. In this form, the skin is very apt to crack ; there are fissures in the skin called *rhagodes*, and there is for the most part, much more inflammation than in lepra. There is very frequently, great irritation in this form of the disease. It tingles and smarts severely. We have only then to discover whether the disease is attended by scales ; and if it be, it is one of the three species to which I have above adverted. If it be pityriasis, the scales are very minute, coming as near to scurf as possible. If the scales be thick, the patches *circular*, the margin elevated and there be *no* cracks, it is lepra. If, however, the patches assume an *oblong* form, and there *be* cracks, it is psoriasis.

There is one form of this called by some authors psoriasis *guttula*. If it occur in patches, it is called psoriasis *diffusa*. If it is seated in the palms of the hands it is called psoriasis *palmaris*. There is another form called psoriasis *inveteratae*, which may be considered as a pustular affection. It sometimes lasts a long time, till, even the whole body is almost covered. It cracks open in various parts and is in many cases very severe.

Treatment.--The same treatment which we have recommended for other cutaneous affections of this kind.

Oliaginous applications will be found beneficial in this disease when it has cracked, as they soften the parts. Alkalies and acids are both indicated, and an alternation of each may be used for a while, both externally and internally, till it is found which is the most beneficial.

The diet should be particularly regulated, and alteratives taken if the blood is affected and the case is one of long standing. Means should be used, to keep up a healthy action in the skin, and the bowels open by laxatives if they are not kept so by nature.

68 East Broadway, New York.

Editorial.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE.

THE exercises of the close of the Session of the N. York Medical College were held on Thursday evening the 1st inst., and were well attended. Thirty-two gentlemen received diplomas. Before the address Dr. Frank Tuthill for the Censors made a statement of the qualifications and ability of the members of the Graduating Class. He explained the office of the Board of the Censors, narrating the reasons of the creation, approving the wisdom on the part of the Faculty who had invited this Cerberus to stand between the applicants for graduation and the profession, to receive all the cudgelling in case unworthy members should be admitted, and to withstand as well as they may the piteous pleadings of the rejected applicants for professional honors. The daily quiz by each professor was commended as likely to secure the habit of learning definitely what is presented to the mind, and of expressing in words what one knows. He alluded to the busy life of the medical student. What with his attendance upon hospital clinics, in which no City is richer than this, upon the six daily lectures and at the dissecting room, his *ingestion* is prodigious, his *digestion* anything but remarkable. Another point upon which the Censors charged him to speak flatteringly was the expertness of manipulation, which the gentlemen had exhibited in the Chemical Laboratory. The Board he said felt a confident assurance that no member of the Class about to graduate would ever entail disgrace upon the profession or shame his *Alma Mater*.

Dr. H. Green, the President of the Faculty, then addressed the candidates and administered the Hippocratic oath, after which he introduced Dr. H. G. Cox, the President of the Medical Staff of the Emigrant Hospital at Wards Island.

The Doctor congratulated the class upon its success in reaching the goal so long in anticipation. But this goal, he assured them, was but the first halting-place in their course of serious study and struggle. He pictured the field of medical practice, and defined the kind of physician that fills it honorably. He spoke of the value to the practitioner of an acquaintance with the several departments of medicine which are taught in the schools, and as well of those which are only hinted at in the schools, but must be prosecuted during the leisure hours of early practice, and never be laid aside entirely, however busy one may become in practice. He pointed out many essential differences between those who practice medicine as a noble science, and those who use it as "a mere bread-earning craft."

The effects, said he, which emotions of the mind possess in influencing certain organs and tissues, must be hourly studied in our professional avoca-

tions. *Fear* will specially affect the heart's action, and if protracted, result in physical changes of that organ, *anger* will influence the hepatic secretion; *terror* has been known to arrest hemorrhage—the dread of impending disgrace has checked convulsive disease; and *hope*, it is well known, even to those who hear me unskilled in science, acts specifically in pulmonary consumption—by buoying up the patient even in the hours when, almost visible to human eyes, the dark messenger of death flaps his gloomy wings over the fair and loved sufferer, and beckons her to his embrace. When the skilled physician feels he has no power to rescue his prey, hope still clings to the patient. In the words of an eminent physician, "it has lighted up the countenance, and made everything assume a bright and cheerful aspect. New schemes of happiness have been contemplated, everything has seemed brilliant for the future, while all besides see but the inevitable fate, the knowledge of which the distemper, by this emotion, has hidden from its deluded victim."

Often it happens, too, that the much vaunted potency of some empirical nostrum has inspired confidence in persons suffering from nervous derangements, and has exerted such influence as to be supposed to have removed the malady; and in acute attacks of disease it has been observed that those who dread death least, or declare, as some have done, they will live in spite of the disease and the doctor too, have a better chance for a favorable result than the desponding. Every physician, who maintains always his self-possession, and meets his patient with a placid smile and an encouraging voice has, after some stormy season of sickness, had his patient tell him that for this encouragement he would have felt that the last hour had arrived. The poet COLERIDGE has truthfully said, "he is the *best* physician who is the most *ingenious inspirer of hope*."

Dr. Cox proceeded to indicate the great Continents of knowledge that have been discovered since the days of HIPPOCRATES, in answer to those who say that medical science has made no advances for centuries. He dwelt upon the improved means for diagnosing diseases, and the more rational modes of treating them, which moderns enjoy. He contrasted the ancient and the modern methods of surgical treatment, and the kinds of cases that then and now are esteemed past cure.

He spoke of the honorable share that America had taken in securing the progress made during the present century, and alluded to the very creditable part that New-York had accomplished. The allusions to the services of men of New-York, and especially of the distinguished gentlemen of the Faculty of this College, were heartily applauded.

The Doctor spoke of the greatly increased facilities now furnished by our hospitals, dispensaries, asylums, &c., for medical instruction, over the meagre

appointments of preceding times, and threw out some valuable hints as to the mode of using them. He discussed, too, the importance of establishing Free Hospitals here,—such a one as exists in London—free to every person who can plead sickness at its gateway. The value of such institutions he dwelt upon with much emphasis—exhibiting their services to humanity, their relief to the poor, their economy to the State, and the good they do to science. With some pertinent direct advice to the graduates, the Doctor closed.

PATENT MEDICINES AND THE LEGISLATURE.

In the "Sunday Dispatch" of Jan. 28th, we find a long article headed, "The desperation of the M. Ds., the war of the Regulars against patent medicine men." It seems the Old School Doctors have been petitioning our Legislature from year to year to put a stop to the sale of all kinds of Medicine not recognised by the *regular faculty*. In their bill before the House they ask that a maker or vender of a patent medicine shall file in the county clerk's office of the county in which he resides, a receipt in which he shall state in good plain English what his medicine is made of, and the exact proportion of each ingredient and append to this receipt his affidavit. Then they ask that all Druggists shall be prohibited from selling or offering for sale any medicines except such as the *regular* doctors prescribe or are published in some standard work of the Old School. There then follows a third section which exempts the regulars viz "practicing physicians" from the restrictions upon their prescriptions.

Such are some of the features of this bill, which is certainly one of the most barefaced and impudent attempts at the monopoly of the Drug business that we ever heard of. It permits the doctor, especially the Old School M. D., to prescribe just what he pleases, whether the books contain it or not, and the Druggist can put it up whether it kills or cures.

How much more reasonable it would be to petition the Legislature to forbid at once the sale of *all poisons*, of whatever kind when they are prescribed as *medicines* by physicians of every grade, how much suffering and death would thus be prevented. Whenever the *regulars* obtain the passage of this law above mentioned we shall have some hope at least, that one will soon be obtained for restraining the use of Calomel and all poisons as remedial agents.

We quote the following from this article as good advice to the regulars :

"The practice of medicine, as practiced to-day by the faculty, is ten centuries behind the age, as compared to the progress made in other sciences and arts. What is known by the masses of the circulation of the blood,

the physiology of the important functions of life, and of every essential organ of the body, has been learned from those called quacks. The age we live in, and the intelligence of the people, won't allow of a retrograde movement in medicine. We advise the doctors to work harder, to thin their ranks of the surplus labor in their profession, by entering other pursuits; and if they wish to put down patent medicines, go to work and make better ones; write for the people, and inform them respecting disease, and the mode of prevention and cure, and cease imploring the Legislature to give them protection."

DISCUSSION BETWEEN CURTIS AND TRALL.

THE discussion between Drs. Curtis and Trall is becoming very interesting. So far we must say that Dr. Curtis has not only sustained his argument in the debate, but has most triumphantly vindicated the principles of Medical Reform, and the practice of innocuous medication.

This controversy, which has been conducted so gentlemanly and fairly, by these great champions of Water and Medical Reform can but be very interesting to the friends of both parties. We think it can be clearly shown, that harmless medicinal agents and especially those of the vegetable kingdom, may act upon the human system physiologically and precisely as the water acts.

The Medical Reformer believes in the efficacy of the Water Cure and its modus operandi as strongly as Dr. Trall. But he is also as firmly convinced that a certain class of medicines act in the same way and often remove disease more speedily by giving strength and vigor to some weakened organ, or stimulating some function to a healthy action.

It is of but little moment whether the medicine acts on the system, or the system on the medicine, if this action is physiological and conducive to health.

We copy the first article of this controversy in this Number of our paper, for we want to show our readers that *Old Grey* has not lost a whit of his controversial powers, and that he is yet the same uncompromising advocate of our principles, although he has been so long in the field and so many times assailed.

KING'S ECLECTIC DISPENSATORY.

THIS great work, is receiving some pretty severe reviewing from various editors of Reformed Journals. We are more than pleased to see the jealous care which these conservators of true medical Reform have for the purity of our principles, and least we shall be led into the errors of Allopathy.

We have battled long against the pernicious tendencies of what is called Eclecticism, and it is indeed gratifying to us to see the Botanic Journal of Memphis come out so plain and decided against the use of those poisonous agents which are recommended by the Eclectic books, and used very generally among the practitioners of that School.

The Eclectics have rather gained the march of us in getting out books. But as they are all so defective in the true principles of medicine and only slightly removed from Allopathic teachings in reference to their theories of disease and in their practice, there is still room for other works which we are sure will receive a rapid sale as soon as published.

Prof. Coxe of the Southern Bot. Med. College will have a large work out of Press on the Theory and Practice of Medicine before the next Session of the Georgia College, and immediately after that, a Reformed Medical Dispensatory by Prof. Loomis will be issued. These works will be such, as all those who believe in sanative medication can consult and follow without meeting on every page the recommendation of the virulent poison or the deadly narcotic. The true principles of Medical science will be fully elucidated and sustained by physiological laws, and the latest discoveries in the sciences and in practice.

We congratulate our Reformed Medical fraternity on the prospect of soon having some works of which we shall be proud.

DONT SEEK BOTANIC MEDICINES IN ALLOPATHIC DRUG-STORES.

THE following incident which happened not long since in this city, is getting to be too common not to claim our notice. Some of our New School remedies are getting to be quite popular and as they are not much known to the "*regular profession*," and seldom found in the Old School Drug Shops, it would be well for all those who want a remedial agent belonging to the Botanic order to seek for it in a Botanic Drug Store. If you want the Podophylline or any other concentrated remedy, prepared by the best Medical Chemists, B. Keith & Co. just call on Law & Boyd at 68 East Broadway or Coolidge, Adams & Bond 10S John St., and you will not get Jalap for Podophylline. But for the incident.

It frequently happens that some drug is ordered which is not in the store of the apothecary to whom the prescription is presented. In such a case, if he be an unscrupulous person, he substitutes some drug of what he considers a similar quality, for the one in question. A case of this kind occurred some time ago in the practice of an acquaintance. He was attending an engineer for a Southern steamer, who was suffering severely from fever and ague.

After giving very powerful doses of quinine, the physician ordered podophylline. The prescription was taken to a drug store in the vicinity of the wharf at which the steamer was lying, and the proprietor having no such medicine, supplied jalap in its stead. Next morning the patient was raving mad, and had to be transferred to the City Hospital, and lost his berth on board the steamer. The physician called next day at the drug store to examine the podophylline, he was so astonished at its effects, when he was informed by the apothecary that his clerk had not had much experience, and had used the one medicine for the other!

Any *Botanic* druggist would know better than to substitute jalap for podophylline, but few Allopaths know the difference.

STRAWS SHOW WHICH WAY THE WIND BLOWS.

WE were truly gratified in reading the January No. of the Worcester Journal of Medicine, to see that the editor is coming a little to his senses; indeed from an examination of the last three or four Nos. it will be seen that the Thomsonians have come in for a large share of abuse and slander. The following extract shows that new light has dawned upon the mind, and that it is found best to try to propitiate these old pioneers of Medical Reform who have borne the burden and heat of the day and who are really deserving of more honor than has yet been awarded them.

Only come on the right track friend Williams, and we will give you the right hand of fellowship. It makes no difference if you are a Homœopath in your views and practice, if you will fill your paper with sound doctrines and true Reformatory Practice, we shall not mention "*infinitesimal*" or say a word about consistency. But here is the extract.

"The class of Reformers with which we are connected has grown up from small beginnings. It is not proper for those enjoying present advantages to forget their humble origin. Nor is it proper to cast aside those humble pioneers, who, though comparatively uneducated, are in very many instances, men of strong minds, honest, discreet and successful in practice.

"Many of the old Thomsonians are exactly of this cast, and they deserve great credit for their extraordinary successes, when laboring under the serious disadvantages that have fallen to their lot."

THE URINE IN DIAGNOSIS.

IN reading the writings of Galen lately, there was nothing that struck us more forcibly than the importance which the ancients gave to the examination of the urine in disease as a diagnostic symptom. They attended to it more uniformly and critically than is now done.

It must be admitted that we fail greatly by our almost total relinquishment of the inspection of the water, while we attend so sedulously to the discharges from the bowels, the stomach, lungs and skin. If we think these are necessary, which are merely the excrementitious parts of the food taken in, how much more important to examine that fluid which comes freighted with so large an amount of matters secreted from the blood, and freeing that important fluid from some of its most injurious contents.

The urine seems to be loaded with saline matter and various acids which can find no exit from the circulation except through the kidneys: and the evil to be apprehended from its retention to the system at large or to particular parts conspire to prove that it was considered of the highest importance by our patient and indefatigable forefathers in medicine, and should not be neglected by us.

We are far from recommending the Uroscopic practice to the exclusion of better and more rational means of diagnosis, yet we feel assured that too little attention is paid to this important excretion. From the acknowledged precision with which the Uromantes often tell the ailments of their patients, and the particular organs affected, is strongly corroborative of the value of this inspection, and that the ancients did not over estimate its importance.

NATURE THE PHYSICIAN.

In reading a translation of Hippocrates and Galen, or rather an "epitome" of the writings of these ancient sages, by Redman Coxe M. D. we have been as much interested in the notes of the editor as in the original text. There is a constant aim on the part of Dr. Coxe to show that Galen was acquainted with the circulation of the blood, and that Harvey should not have the credit of this discovery. There is also many well timed hits at the modern practices of those who do not bow the knee to Allopathy.

The following remarks are worthy of notice as coming from a learned Allopath. "A principle advantage of homœopathic practice consists in their infinitesimal doses;—for assuredly, if they do no good, they can do no harm, which is more than can be said of the large and repeated doses of the most powerful remedies in the allopathic. Nature being after all, the real practitioner in the human system, she is less liable to be disturbed in her operation by homœopathy; whilst she is too often entirely put out of her way, by the ill-judged and ill-timed practice of those who view her in the light of a servant whose province it is implicitly to obey the extravagancies of theoretic practice in which they have been indoctrinated."

This is a very candid admission and we can only desire that the Allopath may see the inconsistency of poisonous medication and the Homœopath

know, that it is *nature* not hindered, that works the cure, rather than the infinitesimal doses which they administer. How strange it is, that these two medical sectaries cannot both acknowledge that the physician should only be the auxiliary of Nature, and that only in proportion as this aid is afforded will the healing process go on. Poisons must hinder and infinitesimals cannot render the aid required. This can only be found in those remedial agents which act in perfect harmony with nature's laws.

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE OF THE METROPOLITAN MEDICAL COLLEGE.

OWING to our absence, and some inadvertancy, the notice of the opening Lecture of the third Session of the Metropolitan Medical College, was omitted in our last number; but we are happy now to announce that Prof. J. D. Friend delivered a most admirable introductory which we hope to publish in our April Number. On account of the inclemency of the weather we did not have a very large audience, but whatever deficiency we might have felt in our numbers, we are sure that we had many of our choice friends present who were able to appreciate the rich treat afforded them in this lecture.

Our term has opened under very favorable auspices and we hope to have a larger class than ever before. We have many letters from students who will be here during the next 2 or 3 weeks. Profs. Archer, Friend, Sperry and Lincoln are already on hand and zealous in the performance of their several duties. We shall have a full course of Medical Lectures, and we hope those students who are proposing to enjoy the facilities and advantages of the Metropolitan College, will hasten here as early in the Session as possible.

OUR JOURNAL.

THE editor is again at his post after an absence of four months from this city. We have labored under many disadvantages during the winter, yet we have kept up the regular issue of our paper and shall continue to do so for this year. We have been encouraged by the accession to our subscribers, and all we now desire is a prompt payment on the part of those who have received the paper for 1854 and for the present year.

We fully agree with some of our contemporaries that we ought to have fewer Journals and that they should be better patronized, but we are just as fully convinced that the best interests of Medical Reform require that we should have a Journal in the city of New-York, and that we should sustain it and the College here.

We reluctantly assumed the responsibilities of this Journal, but with the aid of the faculty of the Metropolitan and the friends of Medical Reform in this city, we have so far been sustained and have strong faith and assurances of our future success. We do not wish to dun our delinquent subscribers, but it will please us, as well as lighten our load if all those who have received the last volume and are in debt to us for it, will send us two dollars for this volume and the last. The Journal of Medical Reform will be published to the end of the year.

The March No. has been delayed by the absence of the editor, but in future we shall issue the Journal on the first of each month.

We have not received so much assistance from correspondents as we had reason to expect, but we hope more assistance hereafter, for we are well assured if our friends and those who sympathize with us would render us the aid they are so capable of bestowing, that our paper would be the best Reformed Journal in the country.

We have been much encouraged by the kindly feelings and interest manifested in the many letters of encouragement we have received from those who seem to appreciate our labors. We hope to prove by our future efforts that we are not unworthy of the confidence reposed in us.

PHYSICIAN'S STAND AND PRACTICE FOR SALE.

THE Undersigned having made his arrangements to retire from the Practice of Medicine wishes to dispose of his Stand and Practice. This is undoubtedly one of the very best locations for a reformed Practitioner in New-England. The present Proprietor has been in practice in this place sixteen years.

The Stand is considered one of the best and oldest in New-England, it is centrally situated in the town Chicopee, being located 4 miles from Springfield, 4 from Holyoke, one from Chicopee Falls, $2\frac{1}{2}$ from Mittaneaque Factory Village.

This town contains between 9 and 10 thousand inhabitants and the village in which the above Stand is centrally situated, contains over five thousand inhabitants. For further particulars please address the subscriber by mail, or call and examine premises

Chicopee, Mass. Feb. 7th 1855..

HORACE JACOBS.

METROPOLITAN MEDICAL COLLEGE.

THIRD ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

Faculty of Medicine.

ISAAC M. COMINGS, A. M., M. D.,
Professor of Anatomy and Surgery.

I. N. LOOMIS, A. M., M. D., F. R. C. S., &c.
Professor of Chemistry and Botany.

JOSEPH D. FRIEND, M. D.,
Professor of Physiology and Pathology.

HENRY A. ARCHER, M. D.,
Professor of Theory and Practice, and Clinical Medicine.

THEODORE S. SPERRY, M. D.,
Professor of Materia Medica, and Therapeutics.

SILAS WILCOX, M. D.,
Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children.

HENRY S. LINCOLN, A. M., M. D.,
Professor of Medical Jurisprudence.

The next Session of the Metropolitan Medical College will commence on the second Tuesday in March, 1855, and continue four months.

Fees.

The entire fee for Matriculation and Lectures will be	\$100.00
Graduation,	20.00
Students having attended two courses in any other Medical College, but none in this,	10.00

As we are desirous to accommodate all who wish to enter the profession, if any student is limited in his circumstances and unable to pay the full amount, by making arrangements with the President of the Board and the Faculty, he can be admitted on more favorable terms, which arrangement shall be confidential.

Good Board can be obtained in the city for \$2.50 to 4.50 per week, with all the comforts of good room, lights, fuel, &c.

Students wishing further information will address H. M. Sweet, M. D., Sec., at the office of the Board of Trustees, No. 16 West 13th Street, N. Y. or Prof. I. M. Comings, No. 68 East Broadway.

A. DOOLITTLE, M. D., Pres.

H. M. SWEET, M. D., Sec.

THE
Journal of Medical Reform.
APRIL, 1855.

Original Communications.

LECTURE,

INTRODUCTORY TO THE THIRD COURSE AT THE METROPOLITAN MEDICAL COLLEGE.

BY PROF. J. D. FRIEND.

HAVING been selected by my colleagues to open the business of this Session, I purpose to ask your attention to a few thoughts on "The Characteristics of the True Physician, in his Moral, Social, and Professional Relations."

So wide is the field of thought embraced in this topic, that I shall be pardoned, I trust, if my remarks are somewhat discursive; and if I shall attempt to draw any portraiture of character wherewith to illustrate and enforce my positions, I beg you to believe that no personalities are intended; or if what I have to offer shall be found too highly seasoned to suit the taste of any who have honored us with their presence, I trust the ultimate consequences will reach no farther than a kindly quickening of mental digestion and awaking of the appetite for what may prove to be more wholesome food. I was reading not long since a quaint writer, who observes that the first practitioner of which we have any account, occupied a temporary residence in the garden of Eden—that his patient was an unsuspecting woman, who listened to his gratuitous advice, and swallowed a prescription which he pronounced to be good. The sad results demonstrate that he was a very ignorant or a very malicious deceiver. The latter inference is no doubt the correct one; and I draw from this, as it appears to me, the natural and inevitable corollary that the physician ought to be a man of truth. If the illustration and the inference shall be considered as far fetched and irrelevant, I hope not to excite the ire of any who have a right to claim descent from so mercurial and prolific a parentage.

The solution of the question "*quid est veritas?*"—what is truth—has exercised the best minds in every department of philosophy. Leaving the discussion of nicer points and the metaphysical predicates which this enquiry involves and originates, it will serve our purpose to define truth to be, an honest conformity, by act and word, to facts as they exist, and to things real, in contra-distinction from whatever is false, perfidious or unreal. This definition I limit to man in his relations with his fellow man; and purpose to go no farther. The *moral* obligations of every intelligent being to conform to this rule, will not be denied by any in this audience. No present advantages secured by its infraction, will compensate for the permanent evil which must inevitably follow. The accommodating morality of our times too often permits the grossest falsehood to pass current as genuine truth, especially if it have a gilded sitting, or is accompanied by a dashing, audacious disregard of the trite but wholesome lessons of honesty and justice. Men grow rich on the spoils of perfidy, and acquire huge fortunes by a dash of the pen, every mark of which is a falsehood that deceives and beggars honest people, and unsettles the financial calculations of a continent. The press, the Eddystone of the moral, scientific and commercial world, sends out an untruth to day, and to morrow plans of monetary interest and business arrangements are based upon its supposed veracity, that will prove the shipwreck or utter ruin of thousands. A venal press is the maelstrom of a country's prosperity, a blight upon its social and intellectual advancement. If the element of truth be wanting, its influence can not be otherwise than corrupt, and debasing to public morals and public taste. If men, intimately related in the multifarious duties and employments of life, are not cemented by the strong bands of mutual confidence, how feverish, unsettled and fluctuating become its avocations and pursuits. *Truth* ought to be the great regulator in all the diversified concerns of business, no less than in all our social relations.

If this element of character is so important, and so urgently demanded in this quarter, are its claims less exacting toward the members of a profession, whose duties connect them with some of the most solemn and sacred concerns of life. So intimately is the physician brought in contact with the inner domestic life of society, and so great are his opportunities of exerting a good or ill influence —of proving a blessing or a curse, that too high an estimate can scarcely be placed upon the necessity of his being a man who measures all his acts by the standard of truth. The temptations to practice upon the ignorance or credulity of his patients are often so strong, that well settled habits of veracity alone can save him from soiling his own reputation and from inflicting, perhaps, lasting injuries upon those whose confidence he would abuse. The eagerness with which the patient and his relatives wait upon the lips of the physician for the word that shall summon hope or add a fearful reality to their gloomiest fears, should remind us that truth is expected of us even if truth is the herald of despair.

There are many delicate and trying occasions in the life of the physician—occasions when his decision is looked for with trembling interest. If rightly formed it may involve in some instances the certainty of a life of sorrow ; it may set up a skeleton in the household where no disturbing element till now had marred its sweet harmonies, where no act of its inmates had ever caused a cheek to blush with shame. Here, truth can not alter, but it may mitigate and soften, while duplicity may add to the severity and extent of the evil. Did every physician who is a welcome and respected visitor of the domestic circle, do his duty faithfully and truthfully, we should hear less of domestic infelicity, less of strife and petulance ; there would be fewer appeals to our courts and other tribunals for the legal sundering of those ties that death alone should sever ; the most sacred aspects of wedded life would not become polluted and despoiled of every rational charm ; and fewer aches and ills would be reckoned as necessarily connected with, or referable to that state which God has ordered for the happiness and perpetuity of the race ; there would be fewer sickly children, and the green sods in our vallies, and the turf in our Cypress Hills and Greenwoods would not so often be disturbed by the grave-diggers' spade, to hide away from the sight of crushed hearts, beneath the flowers that bloom and blossom there, those sweet buds of hope and love that God designed should live and not die ; we should see fewer wives and mothers with shattered nerves, and hollow cheeks and hopeless spirits. The wife would not be the slave she now is, or the husband so often an exacting and merciless tyrant ; we should see fewer lean, lank, shadowy men and women crawling along our streets ; fewer dyspeptics, and horror-haunted hypochondriacs ; fewer effeminate and brainless beings whose hermaphroditic attitudes and whims, and fitful and capricious fancies, and abnormal and non generic tastes and habits, and disgusting genuflections, and mawkish mannerisms, parodize and disgrace the race, and furnish a cogent argument in vindication of Monboddo's theory, that man was originally created with a tail.

I am happy in being able to say, however, that the medical profession, as a whole, enjoy a reputation for integrity and truthfulness ; and in this regard compare favorably with any other. But candor obliges me to confess, that in a profession where truth should be the controlling element of character, there are those occasionally to be met with, who by nature, habit or some mental idiosyncracy seem to be oblivious of its import, and with whom truth would appear to be the exception, rather than the rule. I have not time, nor am I disposed to enter into a minute description or analysis of this class, but shall content myself with a single illustration. In the first place, then, our doctor is a very *learned* man. You would hardly take him for such ; so sleek and glossy and glowing is the *tout ensemble* of the outer man that it seems scarcely compatible with one's notions of a hard student—a patient, plodding seeker af-

ter knowledge. His digestion, evidently, is capital ; and Dives never enjoyed a dinner with greater gusto, or with a higher appreciation of the unspeakable blessing of a healthy and capacious stomach. Especially is this the case when the feast to which he sets himself, is eaten at the expense of some sick patient, whose premonitions of gout have been the cause, the doctor and the dinner the result. The subject matter of conversation during the feast, when conversation is possible is, of course, gout. Mr. Dividend is anxious to learn the nature, probable duration, and ultimate result of his disorder. Our doctor overwhelms him with a display of scientific knowledge, and bewilders and confounds him with a frightful array of technical, unpronounceable and never-to-be-remembered terms, to which the patient listens with a wise and polite air, having learned, no doubt, that the most useful knowledge is often obtained "under difficulties;" and as the doctor warms and glows with his subject and—his dinner, he launches out into a rapid recitation of the contents of his note book, and gives case after case which he has treated with the most astonishing and gratifying success, several of which were pronounced past cure, past hope, by the most distinguished members of the profession, before he was called in. He will not suffer himself to doubt for a moment that he shall be able to bring Mr. Dividend through ; but if any unusual or unforeseen combination or concatenation of circumstances should under his treatment supervene to an unfavorable issue, he takes it upon himself to declare, on the honor of the profession, dear to him as the apple of his eye, that the case of his charming friend, Mr. Dividend, will be the first which he has not been able, radically and triumphantly, to control and cure.

Dessert discussed, he is reluctantly compelled to retire, as he has a score or more of patients to visit during the afternoon ; besides, in his capacity of consulting physician, his presence is absolutely demanded in several important cases which might have a fatal termination should he be absent from the council. Very likely our veracious doctor betakes himself to his cosey cot, and in sweet dreams of canvass-backs and French cooks very wickedly forgets both Mr. Dividend and the consultations.

During the prevalence of an epidemic, he is astonished at its alarming and wide-spread fatality, and points to his own unparalleled success. If, unfortunately, he is called upon for a certificate, he has an itching desire to endorse upon its back an apology for the demise of the diseased, who had just reached the crisis of his disorder when he was compelled, by the urgent demands upon his time and skill to leave him without medication for a few hours, to which cause alone he traces the melancholy necessity of penning the certificate. If these demands for his signature are uncomfortably frequent, he declares, with some heat of manner, that he will abandon consultations, and no longer bear the sins of other men upon his shoulders.

In extraordinary cases, where diagnosis is at fault and men of real skill and prudence hesitate, our Doctor rushes in to pity the ignorance of his professional brethren. With characteristic veracity he recapitulates numerous cases presenting the same phenomena, which he has met with during his professional career, and proceeds to make the case before him as clear as—mud. If one ventures, meekly, to question the infallibility of his judgment or to hint a doubt of the veracity of his facts, his dignity is deeply wounded, and you listen to a philippic on the ignorance and stupidity of the objector, who, if he be a wise man, swallows the insult in silence, and finds himself drawn and quartered in the next number of the Monthly Dissector, to which our doctor is a frequent contributor, literally, of wise *saws* and doubtful instances. Our doctor, next to himself, holds in highest esteem the *Fathers* of the Profession. He is opposed to change, and all new-fangled notions respecting the nature and treatment of disease. What he does not know, may for all practical purposes be unknown. He rarely ventures to prescribe to fastidious patients any of the once popular medicaments of the immortal father Sydenham, such as powders of old hat, viper's tongue and crabs' eyes, but he stands ready to affirm that he has often seen them given, with the happiest results. He believes that modern discoveries in the pathology and treatment of disease, are swelling the bills of mortality, and filling the ranks of the profession with senseless dreamers and inquisitive progressionists, who are weak enough to think for themselves, and to assert their independence by bringing all theories and every mode of practice to the test of enlightened reason and experience.

Our doctor has a profound regard for a fee. He has come almost to reverence the very word. It is the Ararat of his daily labors, the bag of gold at the end of every bow of promise ; the natural sequitor of an "opinion ;" an *effect*, the *cause* of which is—a visit. Did he ever suffer himself to refuse a fee—it would wound his conscience deeply. He might not survive it. Besides, it would infract the code of etiquette, and so expose himself to the severest censure of his professional brethren, who might suffer by his injudicious example. In times of want and famine and sickness, when skeleton hands are reached out to him for help, and mothers and children beg relief from their sufferings, his eye rests on the sorrowful tableaux, but it neither attracts nor moves him, for the almighty dollar forms no part of the picture.

Our doctor, usually, in his pedestrian visitations, carries a cane. The reason why, I cannot tell. His well knit frame ; the amplitude of his abdominal developments, suggestive at once of strength and capacity, would hardly seem to indicate its use or necessity. In the language of Saxe, he *looks* a "perfect colossus of Rhodes." Yet so habituated have the people become to associating and assimilating the man and the stick, that a temporary or casual separation might

gender a doubt of his identity ; and his ring at the door might not be honored by the maid, if this inseparable adjunct of his toils and travels were not visible at the same moment with the oleaginous countenance of the owner. It should be noticed as a striking peculiarity of our doctor's manner, that he often carries his cane somewhat after the style of soldiers going to a funeral with arms reversed. The parallel of the attitude, might lead an evil-disposed person to presume, that the doctor, if not bent on the same errand, was, at least, preparing the way for one of the same solemn import. The doctor perhaps considers his cane as a sort of prop collateral to his dignity, or as a portable advertisement of his profession,—one of the modes of advertising, by the way, which he doesn't consider vulgar.

His bearing in church, is correct and classical. And if he moves along the aisle, as he enters, with a carriage that seems to say *ecce homo*, it must be remembered that he regards himself as the representative, if not the embodied wisdom and dignity of an honorable and exalted profession. His graceful attitudes, his dignified repose, the patronising benignity which marks his survey of the multitude around him, and his apparent devotion to the duties and observances of the sanctuary, index to your mind the character and deportment of a christian gentleman. There is an element wanting—a heart tuned in harmony with the sympathies of humanity, and a hand ready to obey its impulses. If he is called out of church before the services are concluded, as he is quite likely to be, it is apparent to all who are attracted by his exit, that the necessity to him, is a painful one, disturbing as it does his devotions and the solemn awe of the occasion. The report which his rival, who attends the same church, has circulated, that our doctor's Sabbath-day calls are a sham, a make-believe ; in point of fact, false, and an integral part of his capital stock of professional notoriety, may be a libel, but it would seem to be well founded if placed in juxtaposition with the case of Mr. Dividend and—the consultations.

Many of the patients our doctor visits, might have been spared many a bitter portion, many a heaving stomach, and been exorcised of many an imaginary ailment, had he been strictly truthful and honest in his dealings with them. He listens without reproof to the complainings of the grumbler—the man who is satisfied with nothing—who growls at the will and ways of a providence, that hasn't furnished him with a stomach adapted to bear the burdens of fish and flesh and fowl, and birds of the air and beasts of the field, and sweet condiments and sour assimilations, and soups and savory dishes, and the ten thousand culinary cruelties of modern fastidiousness and folly, in awful continuity, and adapted to the measure of his unsatisfied appetite ; who does n't understand how folks manage to live on plain food and cold water, while his jealous and grumbling nature envies their glowing cheeks and arms of strength, and freedom from the countless real or imaginary ills to which he is subjected. Had

our doctor fulfilled the mission of his calling, he would have indoctrinated the grumbler and the glutton in the elementary laws of life. He would have told him of the necessity of obeying those laws which the creator has instituted for the regulation and control of the appetite and the conduct of our physical being, and pointed out the penalties which are attached to disobedience. But he tells him nothing of this. On the contrary, I blush to say, he rather encourages his patient by his own example, and often finds use for his cane in sadly undignified explorations of dark and sinuous passages leading to the front door, late at night or at early dawn, to the utter abondonment of scores of sick people who, during his protracted absence, may have passed *the awful crisis*. Then there is the patient who calls him out of bed late at night to see him die. He has been summoned on the same errand many times before. Yet he still lives—lives to disturb the doctor's slumbers and add another moiety to his fees—a man who lives in continual fear of death ; who sees visions in the night, and spends his bed ridden days in thinking himself into a skeleton ; whose every pain is the stroke of the great Reaper ; every wind that blows upon his cheek an added item to the grand total of warring elements without, that are racking his frame into the last agonies of dissolution ; who moves a limb with the same care that a skilful surgeon shows in an operation involving life or death ; who watches for the beams of the morning sun as the cast-away mariner watches for its coming ; and as day again advances and the shadows fall, and night throws her mantle over the sights on which his eye has lingered the live-long day, and the sounds to which he has accustomed his ear to listen fade away, and all is still save the beating of his own heart, a pall of deeper gloom settles down upon his own soul, and to his bewildered and feverish sense his chamber is filled with sprites and demons and things ludicrous ; and ghastly images peer into his face and laugh hediously at his fears, and settle themselves in weird array upon his couch, and hold a very carnival of horror. Why is he not taught to break away from the thrall-dom which his own fears are weaving around him ? Where are the green fields which his feet tread not—God's glad sunshine, that sends no quickening ray upon his withered frame—the pleasant sights and sounds of Nature—valley and wild wood, the laughing rill and the free air of the mountain-top ? Have they lost their power to quicken the pulse, to summon bloom to the cheek, and to chase away the images of a distempered mind ? Change, change is wanted here—change from the prison-chamber, haunted with the spectres of a mind that had eaten into its very self ; freedom from the endless monotony of sights and sound—an atmosphere of life and health and mental activity. And here I leave our doctor, hoping that in this rapid sketch I have thrown out some hints that are not altogether devoid of practical value—some suggestions that may prove useful to us all.

But again, the physician should never seek opportunities of making a display of his medical knowledge, or make an intrusive tender of his services, or opinions. There are some men who love to appear wise and learned—others who wish *to be so*. The former have, generally, taken but shallow draughts at the fountains of knowledge, just enough to intoxicate the brain, and are ever anxious to tell the world around them all they know—sometimes a little more. The applause of those who can see no indelicacy in the physician who hawks about his mental wares, is not worth having. If you value your own knowledge and place a proper estimate upon the importance which attaches to the deliberate opinions of a well-informed practitioner, you will be in no haste, voluntarily, to throw them away before any body has demanded the sacrifice. An open-mouthed brawler, in our profession, who visits taverns, club-rooms and other places of public resort, eager for an opportunity to challenge by some masterly show of erudition or professional sagacity the wonder of a gaping crowd, may be a wise man in his own estimation, but while they gaze and while their wonder grows that one such head can carry so big a burden, sensible people will justly despise the senseless display of pedantry, and will be quite apt to vote him a public nuisance. Modesty may well be reckoned among the christian virtues. It is generally found in close companionship with real worth and merit; and its absence is fatal to the pretensions of those who have either never known, or have parted company with her. I can best illustrate this point, perhaps, by telling you something about a man I “once knew.” Tradition says he was born when the winds blew—and there was a great tempest. At school he vaunted himself on his wisdom, and stepped around in the circle of his school-fellows as you may have seen a king chanticleer on his smoking throne. His “yes” was an oracle, his “no” a finality. He was a bundle of fat—running, a reproach to his dignity. Of a Sunday he occupied a conspicuous seat near the deacon; and it was a sight worth looking at and studying to see him setting bolt upright, his eyes, literally, hanging out with fatness, his hands thrust down into the deepest soundings of his pockets, and his hair, every point of which seemed a bayonet disputing the entrance of an antagonistic thought, redolent of bears’ grease and damaged cologne. As he advanced in years, and stature and wisdom, he ignored the becoming black ribbon with which his neck had been adorned in his infantile years, and committed depredations on his father’s side of sole leather, carefully hid away in the garret, wherewith to supply its place. He always carried his head high. Leather added to the dignity of its appearance, but so circumstanced the owner, that he was fain, from sheer necessity, to obey the mandate that bids us look neither to the right or the left. In walking, unity of movement was wanting, and in its place you observed an antagonism of locomotion—a constant warfare for precedence between legs and arms, which led you to believe that each of

these important members of the body was endowed with a distinct and separate motive power of its own. I hasten on to say, that if you could have looked into the village doctor's drug shop on a summer day, you might have seen him swaying and sweating over a mortar, looking the very picture of disgust, at the drudgery to which his mental talents and physical powers were subjected. With powers of perception rarely possessed, seldom witnessed, he read the title page of some huge volume, looked *through* its leaves, examined the conclusion, and threw it aside with the air of the hero who came and saw and conquered. During the latter period of his pupillary probation, he visited, occasionally, the poorer class of his preceptor's patients, and often found it necessary to *differ* from the "old gentleman," and entertained his hearers with profound discourse on the unsoundness of the doctor's views and measures, and fortified his own positions with arguments which, emphatically, were unanswerable. Occasionally, during Court week or when county meetings were being held, he "drop'd in" at the village hotel, on which occasions he introduced himself to such as, up to this period in their lives, had not enjoyed the advantage of his acquaintance, who were soon given to understand that he was in the "medical line," and that in the event of any unfortunate casualty, demanding treatment, during their stay in "our delightful village," he should be most happy to give them a specimen of his skill. His charges would be moderate, as he was not yet licensed; though we would venture to say, that he *ought to be*, and probably would be, were his merits fully known and appreciated in the proper quarter. Finally, on taking leave of his preceptor, he hoped their three years' *companionship* had not been altogether barren of *mutual* benefits. He was free to acknowledge his indebtedness for many useful *hints*, but he hoped that the doctor was not altogether unmindful of the fact that his own services, on many trying occasions, were not entirely valueless, and that the important additions in Pharmacology which he had made to his manuscript dispensatory, would be as freely accepted and appropriated to his use, as they were cheerfully bestowed. In the lecture room of the college he listened with a patronising air, kindly overlooking the *mistakes* of the lecturer, and mentally determining to set him right on some seasonable occasion when there were none near to witness his mortification. He was often aware beforehand of what would be said by the Professor in the next lecture, as he had written several dissertations on the subject in hand, in fact had exhausted the theme. He attended lectures merely for form's sake and a diploma, which he finally obtained, fully persuaded in his own mind that the Faculty felt themselves highly honored in bestowing it upon so learned and brilliant a personage as himself. And so he went forth into the world, and blew big blasts upon his trumpet, and held long discourse on the corners, and was ever found at scenes of recent disaster, elbowing his way through crowds, and sounding his advent

and his business ; figuring largely at inquests, giving an opinion "as is an opinion" to grave men sitting on dead bodies, which are wrought into verdicts quite as senseless ; dropping in at consultations—the merest accident—hopes he don't intrude ; interfering with other men's patients—hopes he is'nt ; writing for the Journals wonderful reports of cases which he has seen—in his dreams ; sees ulcers in pimples, cancers in warts and *danger* in everything ; prognosticating choleras and black vomits, and sickly seasons and wide-spreading epidemics ; an industrious man—a busy practitioner, always moving, never at rest, bustling and rushing and tumbling through the world. Doubtless you have seen him often—*he has been there*—he is everywhere. You can no more mistake him, than you can mistake the ghost of Hamlet for the Kentucky giant. How do you like him ? For myself I can say, that I would rather take the place and share the consciousness of the quiet, kind hearted practitioner, who through years of patient toil and ill-requited professional labor, has striven to fulfil, legitimately, the purposes of his calling ; who has answered every call with cheerful alacrity ; sought to relieve the suffering ; and when the last hour has come, to kindly slope the way into the dark unknown, with hopes that have their source in the great fountains of life and love—to chase away the dark shadows that hang around the grave, and point the stricken spirits to the promises of an eternal rest and reunion,—the man whose devotion to his profession is only equalled by a sincere and honest purpose to spend and be spent in the service—a self-sacrificing, noble man who never shrinks from the demands of duty, even at the peril of his own life, and who, sustained by an unfaltering confidence in that Providence whom the lessons of life has taught him to lean upon and trust, enters with as cheerful a step where every breath invites contagion, and every moment is passed in exposure to the pestilential vapors that poison the atmosphere, as into the chamber of affluence and ease ; who visits places where the world's thrift is unknown, and where the pangs of want are added to the helplessness of physical suffering and prostration, and ministers with as soft a hand and as gentle a spirit, as when summoned to the bed side of the proud and wealthy citizen. Such a man has learned the luxury of doing good ; he has learned that there is a fountain in the breast, which, if permitted to flow out will bless and enrich his own soul, and heighten the joys, and assuage the sorrows of all who feel its genial influence. The race of such men, happily, is not extinct. May we strive to emulate their virtues and follow their example.

I observe, the physician should be courteous and tolerant toward those who differ from him respecting the nature and treatment of disease, and examine an opposing System or theory with generous criticism and in a spirit of candor. I do not think that the justice of this proposition will be denied by any who hear me. Rightly considered, it will be found to harmonise, not only with the common

rules of courtesy, but with the demands of that higher law which teaches us to do to others as we would that others should do to us. And yet we very often act as though this rule, good in itself and well adapted to secure to mankind mutual rights and benefits, in *our* case, had no binding force. Men will *not* examine new truths and new phases of truth ; they *will not* listen with an unprejudiced ear to claims which impose upon them the necessity of abandoning what they have long considered as vesting alone in themselves. So abundant are the lessons which the past teaches us here, that it would seem by this time that sensible minds need no longer be reminded that long cherished opinions and systems and theories may after all be false and useless and ill founded,—while truths which we have all along rejected, opinions which we have condemned, and theories which we have regarded as visionary and absurd, may have in them at least the elements of great truths, which study and observation and patient trial may enable us to amplify and elaborate into beautiful structures, which shall instruct and bless the world.

The past is full of error. Man has been seeking in every direction and availing himself of all the means within his reach to enlarge the sphere of his knowledge—to bring forth from the great store house of art and nature, things new and valuable. Amid the rubbish of the past there has been gathered up many a gem of priceless worth, which will grow brighter and brighter as the shadows of time lengthen. But the iron hand of precedent has grasped many a false and hurtful thing, garnered from every department of philosophy and science and art, and with its giant force has borne it triumphantly along through succeeding ages, and to day holds it up to our gaze and bids us behold and wonder and approve. But mankind have learned that *precedent* is often but another name for error, and refuse to pay slavish homage to its claims.

God has endowed every soul with a mental activity. If it lie not dormant and unused, *progress* must be the result of its exercise. The mind cannot always feed upon what it knows. It must have other mental aliment. It has desires which must be satisfied ; hopes which seek fruition ; aspirings which lead it upward to the attainment of high purposes—the accomplishment of noble ends. Could the results of mental activity be daguerreotyped and exhibited at a single view, we should see more distinctly the evidences of progress. We should learn by studying the picture, that many of the errors to which men cling to this hour with zeal and pertinacity, are but the stepping stones over which mankind have necessarily passed in the attainment of truth. Our pride might here find something to chasten and subdue its vauntings ; and the great Diana to which we have bowed and worshipped, might be found to be a sightless and soulless image. The noble temple which the hands of our predecessors have for ages been employed in rearing, and which their successors and followers have been industriously engaged in adorning and

strengthening, might be seen, in the language of Rush, to be roofless at the top and cracked in the foundation. Systems and theories which we have learned to reverence and respect, might be seen stripped of every element adapted to inspire the one or command the other. The reformer might here learn to distrust somewhat the correctness of his own dogmas ; and while he receives with enthusiasm the doctrines that go to make up the sum and basis of his system of practice, let him guard against sitting down with a satisfied and contented air, as if nothing more were to be learned, no greater victories to be achieved. While you believe that the fundamentals on which your structure rests, are truths in harmony with the laws of life and the teachings of nature ; while the experience of the past serves to fortify and strengthen your convictions of its superiority over other methods and other systems, it will serve us to remember that the same law of progress applies here as elsewhere. If you would not rust you must work. Depend not on past successes alone as a capital that will always yield you the respect and confidence of an intelligent and discerning public.

Our Allopathic friends might also learn some useful lessons. And in all candor, I beg to say, I know of no class of practitioners that need them more ; or who would be more likely to profit largely by a careful and critical study of our picture. It is useless to attempt to disguise the fact, that in their bearing toward all who do not yield assent to their authority and the excellence of their methods, they often exhibit a supercilious demeanor, which partakes very sparingly of the spirit of that golden rule which I have just quoted. They have ever been very jealous, of what, by some strange fancy they regard as their rights, and, I regret to say, are not always governed by the laws of love in the measures they adopt to retain and defend them. I used to wonder when I was very young, what the Jews stoned Stephen to death for—and afterward, when I came to learn something of history, why men were burned and butchered and racked and tortured for *thinking* different kind of thoughts from those who murdered them ; why such good men as Harvey were persecuted and scoffed at and exiled.—What crime Jenner was guilty of that led his contemporaries to treat him like a malefactor ; and in later times, whose house Thomson had set on fire, that he should be loaded with chains and cast into prison, along with *other* criminals and disturbers of the peace. I used to wonder, if truth were invincible in *every* encounter with error, why error's mouth should so often be shut by padlocks, and her arms compassed with chains, instead of giving her a fair free field in which to spread herself—and be vanquished. The day of dungeons and inquisitorial persecutions is past. But the spirit that saw and proclaimed their necessity, still lives, and shows itself in a thousand petty annoyances and displays of ostentation and arrogant assumptions. When I speak of the Allopathic profession here, I do not wish to be understood as includ-

ing all the adherents of that practice. It were folly not to admit that there are very many in the ranks who have too well studied and love to practice the civilities and amenities of life, to treat any man or any class of men with marked disdain and indifference with whom they may chance to differ in opinion. But there are others, and their name is legion, who would have the world to believe that the Allopathic physicians of to day are the only rightful and legal representatives and practitioners of medicine ; that by some primordial ordinance, human or divine, they and theirs have been foreordained, elected, predestined and set apart to have and to hold in unbroken succession to the end of time, the monopoly of all means and measures wherewith to cure or—kill the human family—conferring upon them and those who are to come after them, rights, titles and prerogatives that can never be acquired by any who are not in the legitimate line of descent—who strive by all means to impress the people with the idea, that in such highly favored individuals as themselves, there exists a refined state of the cerebral organism, a quicker and more accurate perception of facts and things ; a nicer adaptation to the impressions of scientific truth ;—a superior power of detecting, comparing and analysing the shades and idiosyncracies of disease—in fine a higher and more sublimated condition of the brain, that enables them to see and to know, what *irregular* physicians must forever despair of seeing and knowing. It is worth while to enquire when, where and by what authority these great powers and privileges and super-cerebral gifts were obtained ? Has some priest-physician of the great family of the Asclepiades laid hands on these august gentlemen, and set them apart to minister to the sick, and scourge and crucify the outside barbarians, and doom to scorn and contempt every man who dares to question their medical infallibility, or who refuses to yield assent to their countless effete systems and hypotheses. They tell us they have a system—a rational system—and that system is of very ancient origin. I deny, most emphatically that they have any *system*. But admitting they have, and that it is as ancient as sin ! What then ? Do they hope to strengthen their position and win favor in this day by *such* an argument ? What are mankind doing this hour but struggling against tyrannies and abuses that originated in the extremest antiquity ? The most vigorous, the most noble, the most heaven-inspired efforts of the race are directed, with fierce antagonism against these systems and tyrannies and abuses. Cold conservatism stands with her lean, lank finger pointing to the records of the shadowy past, and frowns defiantly at Progress and her advancing train, bidding them stand back nor dare disturb these venerable monuments of power and greatness and authority. Wherever humanity suffers most, wherever mind and body are enslaved and crushed, wherever the lash is most vigorously applied by the hand of tyrant or task master, there you will find “ancient origin and ancient custom,” and “long recognised author-

ity" to be the beginning and end of all argument, an answer to all complaints—a barrier against all reforms. It is scarcely necessary to point to the innumerable hoary errors that modern science and investigation have consigned to the deepest depths of oblivion. But in their day these errors, systems and theories were upheld and defended by the same process of reasoning, by which these gentlemen seek to establish the superiority and perfection of their system of rational medicine. But I have denied that they *have* any system—old or new—rational or irrational. I assert, that from the days of Hippocrates down to the present hour, what they would dignify by the term "system," has been nothing more or less than a succession of controversies; of theory piled upon theory; of supposition bedaubed with conjecture; a series of fluctuations and conflicts; of windy hypotheses and bed-ridden philosophy, following and over-riding each other like the waves of the sea, begotten, born and buried—looked at, condemned and forgotten. I assert that there is scarcely a solitary principle in this so-called system, that has not been kicked and cuffed like a very foot-ball, by the first lights of their own "regular practice"; there is hardly a proposition laid down by their most eminent authors and teachers, that has not been decried and utterly condemned by others of the same communion; not a solitary predicate axiom or opinion, that is not directly or indirectly refuted or nullified by the very master minds of this same system. The stars will cease to shine when the names of Harvey and Jenner, are forgotten by a grateful world. But these men, who are claimed to day by the Allopathic profession as the originators and founders of great truths and invaluable methods, that add the highest honors and worth to *their* system, were pursued with a vindictiveness and fury, scarcely paralleled, when they first announced their discoveries to the world.—There is a great deal of learning and talent in the ranks of our Allopathic brethren; yet I rejoice to say and to *know* that there is so much outside of the profession, that if it were utterly destroyed, there is no ground to apprehend that wisdom would die with it. For worth and wisdom belong, by right human or divine, to no rank of life, and no law of primogeniture can confer them specially upon any class or condition. From the garret have gone forth words and works that have stirred the heart of nations; and the most stupendous works of genius, ere they have been given to the world, have crossed the thresholds of wretchedness and want. Men in place and power and authority, rarely manifest a disposition to make room for those beneath them, even if they come freighted with offerings to bless and benefit the world. It is an unseemly trait in human character thus to reject and despise what is valuable and worthy of admiration. But thus has it ever been, and thus will it ever be, until the law of love and brotherhood shall be the guide of men

and of nations ; until that innate disposition to challenge and destroy, which now, unhappily, characterises the race, shall be supplanted by nobler and better impulses. Till then worth must contend with countless obstacles, and win the approval of mankind by hard-fought battles. But that truth must finally triumph every where and in all things, is a consideration full of encouragement and promise. "Truth crushed to earth shall rise again," is a word of hope ever on our lips, but its cheering import too often fails to reach the heart, or give nerve and vigor to the arm that essays to strike a blow in her defence. But there is nothing more sure or certain. The firm rock imbedded in the midst of an angry sea may be lashed by a thousand storms, but when the tempests are passed, there it stands, lifting its proud front to heaven, defying their fury and smiling at their rage. So shall it be with every cause that has *truth* for its foundation—God for its protector.

OVARIOTOMY.

BY P. STOTESBURY, M. D.

MRS. —, aged about 22 years, and living some twelve miles from my residence in Effingham Co., Geo., became aware of a tumor occupying the right illiac region, two months after the birth of her first child. This gradually increased for ten months. During this period she was examined by Dr. Wildman of Savannah, who pronounced it an ovarian tumor. There being no doubt on this point, the gradual increase in the size demanded some early attention.

After a free and candid explanation of the dangers attending the operation, the patient was not only willing but rather solicitous for an operation.

We consulted with Prof. Comings, of the Macon College, who, after listening to our description of the case, the nature of the disease, the constitution of the patient, &c., consented to assist me in the operation, and share the responsibilities of the case.

Accordingly, on the 17th of Feb., the Prof. and myself proceeded to the house of the patient, where, after making all the necessary arrangements, we administered Chloroform and Ether combined, by saturating a sponge and placing it to her face. In ten minutes she was perfectly insensible. She was then placed on a table, and her husband directed to apply the sponge as ordered.

I commenced the incision at the umbilicus and continued it to the pubis. The opening was made in the linea alba, rather than immediately over the tumor, in order to escape the injury of cutting any small arteries that might be wounded in an incision made at the linea semilunaris. Although this cut was six inches

long, yet it was not followed by the discharge of a tablespoonful of blood. After carefully separating the recti muscles and cutting through the peritonium, the epiploon was exposed and cut through. I then pushed aside the smaller intestines, and the tumor was brought to view, occupying the hypochondric region, in contact with the liver. On grasping this and exposing it, Prof. Comings pronounced it to contain a fluid, and that its adhesions were very extensive. By closer inspection the tumor was found to involve the right ovaria and the surrounding ligaments, especially the broad ligaments of the womb. These adhesions were so extensive, that it was thought imprudent to attempt the dissection of the sack ; death must have been the consequence. The tumor was accordingly tapped, by pressing the tumor to the incision, and about one quart of transparent fluid was drawn off. The opening into the abdomen was now closed by sutures and adhesive straps, compresses and bandage applied. The patient was placed comfortably in bed, and in half an hour after the operation she was gradually aroused to consciousness, and seemed to suffer but little. The operation was performed in just three-quarters of an hour.

The next day, (the 18th,) at 11 o'clock, A. M., I found the pulse at 100, sickness at the stomach, had vomited several times during the night ; this, however, is a frequent attendant after etherization ; rested badly during the night, complained of throbbing about the abdomen and soreness, voided urine once. Gave small doses of quinine every two or three hours, and directed to remain on the back ; the abdomen to be bathed with decoctions of oak bark every four hours.

19th. Eleven o'clock visited patient and found pulse 80 ; rested better than the night before, some little nausea but no vomiting, little colic during the night, but this was relieved by a little peppermint and nervine. Diet, Elm water, with a small portion of broiled bacon ; voids urine every six hours ; quinine continued, also the bathing with oak bark and No. 6.

20th. Eleven o'clock, A. M. Visited patient to day. Rested well last night. At seven o'clock this morning complained of a little nausea, but did not vomit ; has taken three doses of quinine ; pulse 100 ; complains of burning and pains in the right side. Continued diet of Elm, Ginger tea, and administer the quinine as before.

21st. Ten, A. M. To day I find the patient restless, with considerable fever, some twitchings of the abdominal muscles ; this was quieted by a mild sedative in ginger tea. Complains some of quinine, ordered it to be discontinued for twelve hours. Pulse 100 ; previous treatment continued.

22nd. Eleven o'clock. At my visit this morning, I found my patient had rested better than any time since the operation. The pain and burning, with some tympanitic symptoms which have troubled patient, are less ; wants more nourishment. Removed bandages for

first time ; lower portions of the wound had healed by first intention. Pus discharges from middle and upper portion. There was considerable swelling and edges of wound look dark in some places. Dressed sore with Elder salve and bandaged with 18 tailed bandage ; quinine continued and same treatment as before. Hot bricks to the feet. No discharge from the bowels yet ; this is favorable. Wound is kept saturated, Comp. Tr. Myrrh.

23rd. Ten o'clock, A. M. Found patient this morning free from pain, wound discharging thin pus ; much swelled and inflamed ; two stitches cut through, brought the wound together with adhesive strips, and continued the same bathing. Applied bandage ; pulse ninety.

24th. Eleven, A. M. Patient rested badly last night ; some febrile symptoms ; the wound appears in healthy condition, discharging freely. Has taken three doses of quinine since my last visit. Pulse 85.

25th. Ten o'clock, A. M. Patient rested well during the night, and seems as well as could be expected. The discharge is thicker and more healthy. Treatment continued. Pulse 80.

26th. This morning found our patient had rested very well all night ; wound granulating finely ; same dressing continued ; pulse 80. Allowed three small birds to be chewed and the juice swallowed, with small piece of broiled bacon. No solid food yet allowed, and no discharges from the bowels. Hereafter no quinine given after 12, M.

28th. I visited patient this morning and found that she had discharged from her bowels two days before. No fever. Added chicken tea to her diet.

March 2nd. It was very cold this A. M., and found my patient complaining of being chilly, which could hardly be otherwise with the thermometer almost at zero. Ordered more bed clothes and hot bricks to her feet. Wound looks well and discharges healthy pus ; patient complains of hunger ; added hominy and milk to the diet ; same treatment continued. No fever.

4th. Patient improving, makes no complaint—wound is healing finely.

8th. The nurse this morning said that the patient, three days before, had complained of pain in the right side, which lasted all day ; none since. Patient is rapidly improving.

On the 11th I visited her again and must now consider her as out of danger.

We have been thus particular in the description of this case, since it is one of so rare occurrence, and the fact that so few have recovered after the operation. We can ask no better proof that the operation was skilfully performed than the fact that "so little blood was spilled," and no bad symptoms followed the operation.

Egypt P. O., Effingham Co., Geo.

CUTANEOUS DISEASES.

BY PROF. I. M. COMINGS.

PESTIS, PLAGUE.—*Pathological description and Causes.* Plague is very similar to typhus, but it so affects the surface of the body that it may well be reckoned among the pustular class of affections.

The phenomena attending the development of plague during life, and the lesions observed after death, do not enable us satisfactorily to decide upon its proximate cause or nature. As this is a form of disease confined almost exclusively to the old world, and not seen upon this continent, we will not enter very far into the various speculations that have been made on the subject, but confine our remarks to an abstract of the opinions entertained by Craigie and Bulard, as being the most consistent and in accordance with our own views.

The former of these writers applies the general view which he advocates, namely, that the disease arises from a derangement of the capillary system, that the remote material agent which causes it, whatever it may be, acts upon the capillary vessels immediately or secondarily through their contents, in every tissue and every organ of the human body ; the result of which is, that the fluids are no longer freely transmitted through them, so that there is produced a sudden and almost immediate retardation of the motion of the blood through the capillaries of the whole system. First, The arteries of the brain and the investments of the stomach, of the intestinal tube, and of the secreting glands, are distended with dark colored semi-fluid blood. Second, The vessels are loaded with dark colored fluid blood in all the organs, and this will escape immediately on the smallest incision. Third, In several of the organs, nay even in the muscles, dark colored, half coagulated blood is found in clusters of vessels, so as to form dark or carbonaceous patches and masses. Fourth, Dark grumous blood is found, not only in the right chambers of the heart, but in the left auricle and ventricle, in which they are not usually found in ordinary death.

Bulard states that this disease is caused by the contagious product of lymphatic absorption. This view he grounds upon the statement, that the only symptom which has been remarked as alone and distinct from any other at the commencement of the disease, is pain in the lymphatic glands. This is at first but a slight throbbing, becoming more violent and continued, and ultimately succeeded by swelling and buboes. This change in the lymphatic glands is the only lesion which is to be found totally isolated from all others, and it is consequent upon changes in the lymph, and therefore each, during the local affection, is to be considered only as consecutive to this disorder in the lymphatic system, in which consists the simple original affection, the essence of the disease, and without which no general disturbance could have occurred.

The lymphatic ducts, whether going to or from the gland, are not diseased, but the glands alone are affected, therefore it is evident that the malady is not conveyed by continuity of tissue, but the diseased principle is introduced into the lymphatic circulation, and therefore the alteration of the lymph is cause and reason sufficient for the phenomena of diseased absorption, the pathological effects of which are displayed on the glands. The disease, therefore, arises from a change in the lymph. This constitutes the primary affection, the secondary effect of which is, that, as this degeneration of the lymphatic fluids becomes more or less advanced, the blood itself becomes decomposed by the morbid lymph entering into its composition by the venous circulation. It thus loses its normal qualities, and then causes a general disturbance—a deep disorganization in all its functions; in short, all the derangements of a true poisoning. From this moment it loses its physiological character, and assumes one entirely peculiar to itself, and hence we can explain the lesions met with throughout the system, such as the livid color of the stomach, the swollen state of its mucus membrane, the softened state of the spleen, gorged as it is with black grumous blood, the congested liver, and the softened condition of the heart; in fact every lesion found on post mortem examination.

Diagnosis.—The general resemblance which plague bears to those malignant forms of Typhus fever, which are occasionally witnessed in cold countries, must be abundantly obvious. The great distinction between them lies in the occurrence of buboes; in other words, in the tendency which plague has to affect the lymphatic system.

The latent period of the contagion of plague, and the appearance of the symptoms varies in different cases. It is scarcely ever less than three days, and seldom exceeds six. It spreads to a very small distance only from the body of the patient; the consequence of which is, that the disease is seldom, if ever, communicated except by actual *contact*. The dead body does not communicate the disease so readily as the living. It may be taken by inoculation.

Symptoms.—Like many other affections of the skin, it has an acute fever, attended by headache, delirium, and a burning sensation at the epigastrium. Perhaps there may be great strength of body at first; the person may be of a full phlogistic diathesis, but great debility soon comes on, and there may be debility from the first. Glandular swellings speedily appear in the arm pits and groins, so that the disease is characterized by buboes; but the glands of the arms are more frequently affected than those of the arm pits. Sometimes these glandular swellings, or buboes come on at the *first* and sometimes not till the end of the complaint. Besides *th*, buboes there will often appear upon the surface, vesicles of *va* *ese* sizes; the contents of which are frequently dark. There are rious upon

the surface : boils, carbuncles and vesicles, and between them, and even where they do not exist, there are often vibices, petechiae and ecchymoses. These petechiae, it is said, will sometimes rise into carbuncles ; where at first there was merely a little effusion or congestion of blood, there will sometimes, at last, be carbuncles. Occasionally there is not sufficient power of the constitution, not sufficient fever for carbuncles and buboes to arise. Just as in the case of the violent application of malaria, or the violent application of the poison of typhus-fever, and also as in cholera, persons will sometimes die immediately without any reaction taking place.

The most striking symptom is the staggering and the sudden and extreme prostration of strength. There is a strong tendency to void the urine. The stomach is very irritable, the tongue is white and moist, the speech falters. The head is sometimes perfectly clear and collected, and again stupor occurs immediately after the first symptoms. The buboes form after one or two days, where they form at all, then in more than half the cases we only have petechiae and vibices. The duration of the disease is various. There are few cases where the patient dies in a few hours from the invasion. The third and fifth day are those of the greatest danger, if the patient outlives this period, they generally recover.

Treatment.—From the various accounts which we have of this disease, it is evident that it requires the most energetic and thorough treatment from the first.

After cleaning the stomach with lobelia and the bowels by enemas, and thus exciting a determination towards the skin, the cutaneous action is to be maintained by diaphoretics and the vapor bath, and if the pathological notions be correct, which we advanced, that this is a disease of the lymphatics, we must act particularly on these organs, by medicated baths, frictions and other means to promote the absorbents to action. A strong decoction of lobelia applied all over the surface, till free emesis is produced, must act beneficial. The third preparation, must be a most valuable article for external bathing of the surface. Particular attention should be paid to the local treatment of the buboes. They are never discussed, it is best therefore to use such means as will hasten their suppuration, such as poultices, &c. Tonics and stimulants combined are necessary, as recovery advances.

New York, 68 East Broadway.

Editorial.

OVARIAN TUMORS.

THE report of Dr. Stotesbury of Georgia on a case of ovarian dropsy, and the operation which has proved successful, demands of us some notice; for the accurate diagnosis of almost all abdominal tumors, is one of the most difficult problems in surgery.

The great mobility of the abdominal viscera, the frequent distention of the intestines, the varying thickness of the abdominal parietes, and from the fact that some of the viscera are often displaced, it is extremely difficult to determine the location of real tumors, as also to tell their character. Besides, there is a great diversity in the size, shape, density and pathological condition of this part of the system.

In this case reported by Dr. S., there was some obscurity, yet no doubt, as regarded the locality of the tumor. We had no opportunity of an examination of the case till the patient was under the influence of the anæsthetic, for the operation. We distinctly felt three tumors apparently about the size of a good sized orange. They were immediately under the liver and evidently had originated from the right ovaria. On grasping the tumor after the incision was made, we discovered that there were three lobes to it like the leaves of a clover, apparently three cysts had opened into each other.

Although we had never seen this operation performed, yet we are well assured that it could not have been more scientifically performed. Dr. Stotesbury has the right stuff for the Surgeon in his composition, and if he can have an opportunity to practice his favorite branch of science will, we have no doubt, excel as a surgeon.

We have heard from the doctor since the report was written and learn that the patient is rapidly recovering.

TO OUR PATRONS.

It will assist us, if all who take our Journal will just enquire if they have sent us the dollar for the paper, and if on reflection they find themselves in debt to us, just enclose the dollar and send it to Law & Boyd, 68 East Broadway, and thus they will save us from paying out of our own pocket about one half the cost of the paper every month.

We have subscribers enough to pay all expenses and a small sum besides, but by this delay in sending us the little amount, the large sum has

to be paid from our own scanty resources. Remember the small dollar to you all, is the large amount to us. Don't let us have occasion to dun again.

DR. GRISCOM ON DEATH-TRAPS.

THE following striking paragraphs are extracted from the recent Anniversary Discourse before the New-York Academy of Medicine, delivered in Clinton Hall by John H. Griscom, M. D.:

"On the 25th of April last, ten or eleven men were suddenly deprived of life by the falling of a wall during the conflagration of a building at No. 231 Broadway. A coroner's jury of twelve intelligent citizens, in their verdict, used this graphic language :

"The whole building was a complete *death trap*, and could scarcely have been more dangerous had it been constructed for the express purpose of sacrificing human life. It was, moreover deceptive in appearance, and, on that account, doubly dangerous in case of fire."

"Alas! if coroners' inquests were to be held on all the corpses that are made such in the showy but deceptive domiciliary and academical *death traps* in this city, there would remain but little time for the living to attend to any other business.

"You may find them on every street, nay, on almost every block—traps into which victims are attracted by the thousands and from which they are carried, after a short detention, by the hundreds, and to which the language of the verdict I have quoted will apply with pointed literalness. And yet they stand, unceasingly decoying the ignorant and the defenceless; they are rapidly increasing in number, and we heed them not, nor give warning to the victims.

"Do you ask for a prohibitory liquor-law! Very good. But would that have rescued from the grave the 13,734 children, who, in 1853, went down to it ere they saw their tenth year? The bottle was not put to their lips, but they died, when the stimulus of a little oxygen would have saved them, and prevented the sickness of ten times the number.

"If society has a right to protect itself against the destructive influences of the groggery, so has it against the tenfold more deadly, and the thousand-fold more prevalent, destructiveness of the poisoned air of the tenant-house, and of the unventilated church or school edifice.

"Let us have not only a law which shall put it out of the power of the dram-seller to poison his individual neighbors at three cents a glass, but one also which will prevent the landlord's poisoning scores of families for five dollars a month."

Dr. Griscom urges in strong terms the necessity that the Sanitary Police of the City should possess a medical education :

" My last suggestion related to a *Health Police*. Since it is manifest that the aid of law must be invoked for the suppression and prevention of disease-producing circumstances, it would appear, at first blush, that, for an intelligent and satisfactory performance of this important and very nice duty, some degree of medical knowledge were requisite. In many instances it requires no little scientific acumen to determine what really constitutes a nuisance.

" No argument can be needed to enforce so self-evident a proposition, as that a health-officer should possess a medical education ; and yet, will it be believed, that the commercial metropolis of the Western World, with a population rapidly approaching a million, has a Sanitary Police which would not only fail to be recognized as such by its name, but, among the twenty-nine persons constituting it, there is (and that only by chance) but one medical man, and he with no concern in its practical prophylactic duties. With this exception, from head to foot, not a member of it probably would be able to distinguish incipient small-pox from mosquito bites : and, if told it was the former, would most probably give it a wide berth, rather than personally attack so formidable an adversary.

" The citizens of New York little know what is lost by this misorganization of its internal Health Department. Gross evils have long existed and are on the increase, which must inevitably impair still more its character for salubrity ; evils which lie far deeper beneath the surface than its bone-boiling establishments, or its unswept streets ; deep, ulcerous spots unceasingly pouring forth influences which keep the whole city continually on the *qui vive* for outbreaks of pestilence, but which, if cauterized and purified by rigid scientific penetration, strengthened by the strong arm of law, would not only save, annually, thousands of lives, but would place the sanitary reputation of the metropolis on a par with its commercial and political renown.

" It is not enough that the sexton's weekly returns of the causes of death are summed up and given to us in annual tables by the yard in length, which a little arithmetic will accomplish. We need to know the *causes of the diseases*—where they are, what they spring from, and how to avoid them —information which can only be obtained and properly disseminated by men of good medical education, and possessing the proper taste and energy for such work."

THE HIPPOCRATIC OATH.

WHATEVER may have been the state of Medical science before the time of Hippocrates, it is very evident that he was the first man, who gave any thing like form, or order to our practice, or introduced any system to the science of Medicine.

It is said he was accustomed to administer the following oath to all those who entered the profession and that his followers were most strict in the observance of this obligation.

It is right to observe here that in the original Greek there is one clause omitted in this translation. It is a promise never to use means to produce abortion.

"I swear by Apollo, by Hygeia, by Panacæ and by the Gods and Goddesses whom I call to witness, that I will observe, to the best of my ability, and according to the measure of my knowledge, this oath, such as it is written.

"I will regard as my father, him who has taught me medicine; I will help him in his need and supply his wants; I will look upon his children as my own brothers; if they shall desire to learn our art, I will teach it to them without fee or written obligation; I will make known to them its principles; I will explain those principles to them at length; I will communicate the whole doctrine of medicine to them, and also, to those disciples who have matriculated and taken the usual oath, but to none others.

"I will prescribe for the sick a suitable regimen, according to my skill and knowledge. I will protect them against things that are hurtful or unjust; I will keep my life pure and holy, as well as my art. When I enter a house it will be solely to visit the sick, keeping myself free from all corruption. All that I may see or hear in my intercourse with man, either in the functions of my office, and which should not be reported, I will keep secret as things sacred.

"And so, may I live long, succeed in my art, and be celebrated through all time, if I keep this oath, without violating a single article of it. If I fail and become perjured, may the contrary be my lot!"

WE hope the length of Prof. Friend's Introductory Lecture will not prevent its careful perusal. We think there are some hits, not only applicable to the Allopathic profession, but to some who claim to be Reformers. The boasting bombast, which we sometimes see in some of the puffing advertisements of those who have enjoyed a few weeks or months advantages above others around them, is vain and foolish. This pretended skill in curing

certain forms of disease, and boasting of success, is unprofessional and not to be tolerated among enlightened physicians. Let *our* profession keep aloof from these things.

UNIVERSITY MEDICAL COMMENCEMENT.

WE listened to an excellent address from Prof. Van Buren, to the graduating Class of Medical Students on Thursday the 8th. inst. It was replete with good advice to those just entering the profession of medicine. The duties of the practitioner, to his patient, to his profession, to the community, and to himself, were well defined and enforced. The style of delivery was not of the *orator*, but of the *teacher*. We have followed Prof. V. for many months in his rounds through the City Hospital, and have ever been highly pleased with his clinical instruction. He has no superior as a teacher, and but few as a skilful operator.

Whatever deficiency there might be as an eloquent orator in Prof. Van Buren, he is surely a popular and much admired teacher.

THE RECORDER.

OUR neighbor Cook of the Recorder finds some fault with us for not quoting more freely from the Reformed Journals rather than those of the Allopathic faith. We recollect seeing a motto on a Reformed Journal like this.

“Seize upon truth wherever found
“On Christian or on Heathen ground,
“Among your friends, among your foes
“The plant’s divine where’er it grows.”

We intend to strive to follow the very letter of this motto in all our selections, and hence it matters not to us if we do quote from the Old School publications, if the matter is good and such as accords with our views. We rather think the columns of the Recorder might be enriched by some valuable Allopathic writings.

S. B. M. COLLEGE, GEORGIA.

OF the 56 students in attendance on the Lectures in this Institution the past Session, there were but eight graduates as follows:

A. L. Clinkscales, of S. C.—D. L. John, Geo.—D. F. Hill, S. C.—C. I. Williams, S. C.—F. W. Brents, Tenn.—S. H. Watson, S. C.—H. J. Epting, S. C.—J. Condon, Tenn.

The commencement exercises were of an interesting character, and the graduates were a superior class, of whom the College expects much.

This College is rapidly gaining the confidence of the Southern community, and now has among its patrons and strongest friends in Georgia, some of the wealthiest citizens. The graduates of this College will compare with any graduates of the best Allopathic schools, and the facilities of instruction are becoming equal to the best endowed in the land.

A Communication from Mrs. Bronson, M.D. on "Placental Presentation," has just been found and will appear in our May Number; it was mislaid and just discovered among our papers.

OUR EXCHANGES.

THE MIDDLE STATES MED. REFORMER.—This sterling monthly comes to us regularly, and well filled with choice original matter and valuable selected articles from the best authors. It has the Faculty of the Philadelphia Eclectic Med. College for regular contributors, which will greatly increase the value of this paper. God speed the right and prosper the advocates of true Medical Reform, wherever they are. We extend the right hand with our heart in it to our co-laborers Prettyman & John, Milford, Del., \$1.

PHYSIO MED. RECORDER.—This old and always welcome monthly is regularly received and duly appreciated. The discussion with Dr. Trall will make this volume worth ten times the subscription price. Dr. Cook's ready pen will also add interest to the Recorder. Success to all our Journals that advocate true Medical Reform. Cincinnati, O. \$1 per annum.

THE ECLECTIC MED. JOURNAL.—This monthly is well got up, and printed on excellent paper, 40 pages, at two dollars per year in advance. This Journal is superior to all the other Eclectic periodicals in the country, and we should be pleased to see the editors and correspondents advocate the principles of sanative medication and discountenance in toto all poisons, vegetable as well as mineral. It is but half way Medical Reform to dabble in poisons.

AMERICAN MEDICAL MONTHLY.—This is the largest and best publication of the Allopathic School. The paper is the best the market affords, and the typography is unexceptional. This Monthly contains 80 pages with illustrations. It is divided into several departments consisting of Mono-

graphs, Essays, Reports of cures, Reviews, Bibliographical notices and Hospital Records, with a variety of other matter of interest to the medical profession. No pains seems to be spared to make the Medical Monthly worthy the support of the Allopathic profession.

It is edited by Prof. E. H. Parker and conducted by the Faculty of the N. Y. Medical College. Price \$3 per annum in advance. Address American Medical Monthly, No. 9 Spruce St. N. Y.

NELSON'S AMERICAN LANCET.—We have an abhorance to the very name of *lancet*, but yet the monthly with the above name, we appreciate very highly for its liberal spirit. It is among the best of our Old School exchanges. It has lately been enlarged and is richly worth the subscription price, \$2. Address H. Nelson, Plattsburg, N. Y.

THE MEDICAL COUNSELLOR.—This is a new weekly Medical Gazette, devoted to the Medical and Physical sciences. It is eminently practical and we are highly pleased with its contents and typographical appearance. It is octavo, of 16 pages, trimmed, and has a colored cover. The whole volume will make 832 pages. Terms \$2, in advance. Those wishing a weekly Old School periodical will address R. Hills, M. D., Columbus, Ohio.

BOSTON MEDICAL & SURGICAL JOURNAL.—This is the oldest weekly Medical paper in the country. We have always been highly pleased with the liberal spirit which has characterized this Journal. Dr. Smith has been as popular an editor as he is now Mayor of Boston.

We notice that Drs. Morland and Minot are now associated with Dr. Smith; If these gentlemen observe the same policy which has governed the Boston Journal, success will attend it. Terms \$3 per annum in advance. David Clapp, Proprietor and Publisher, 184 Washington St., Boston, Mass.

CONNECTICUT BOTANIC MEDICAL SOCIETY.—The meeting of this Society will be held on the second Tuesday in May, (the 8th.) We hope the friends of Medical Reform will be in attendance. A paper on "Puerperal Convulsions" will be read by Prof. J. D. Friend, and addresses may be expected from Profs. Sperry, Archer and Comings.

METROPOLITAN MEDICAL COLLEGE.

THIRD ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

Faculty of Medicine.

ISAAC M. COMINGS, A. M., M. D.,
Professor of Anatomy and Surgery.

I. N. LOOMIS, A. M., M. D., F. R. C. S., &c.
Professor of Chemistry and Botany.

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SILAS WILCOX, M. D.,
Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children.

HENRY S. LINCOLN, A. M., M. D.,
Professor of Medical Jurisprudence.

The next Session of the Metropolitan Medical College will commence on the second Tuesday in March, 1855, and continue four months.

FEE'S.

The entire fee for Matriculation and Lectures will be	- - - - -	\$100.00
Graduation,	- - - - -	20.00
Students having attended two courses in any other Medical College, but none in this,	- - - - -	10.00

As we are desirous to accommodate all who wish to enter the profession, if any student is limited in his circumstances and unable to pay the full amount, by making arrangements with the President of the Board and the Faculty, he can be admitted on more favorable terms, which arrangement shall be confidential.

Good Board can be obtained in the city for \$2.50 to 4.50 per week, with all the comforts of good room, lights, fuel, &c.

Students wishing further information will address H. M. Sweet, M. D., Sec., at the office of the Board of Trustees, No. 16 West 13th Street, N. Y. or Prof. I. M. Comings, No. 68 East Broadway.

A. DOOLITTLE, M. D., Pres.

H. M. SWEET, M. D., Sec.

THE
Journal of Medical Reform.

MAY, 1855.

Selections.

WATER CURE.

IN our last number we promised to show some of the correspondences and differences between the Physio-Medical system of practice and Hydropathy. But we must premise this article by saying that we here mean Hydropathy and Physio-Medicalism as Dr. Trall and his friends understand and represent them. As we understand them, the latter includes the former as a legitimate part and parcel of itself.

CORRESPONDENCES.—The advocates of water-cure agree with us in the rejection of the lancet, the blister and all the poisonous drugs used by Allopathy or any other system. They agree with us in the free use of water in the treatment of disease, in the necessity of abundance of pure fresh air, of exercise adapted to the ability and circumstances of the patient, and in the selection of the most suitable articles of diet.

In theory, some of them agree with us in the *doctrine* that the science and practice of medicine must be based on the laws of physiology. Dr. Trall, in his Cyclopaedia, Volume II, page 33, says: “A philosophical and hence successful practice of the healing art, must be based upon the laws of life, the economy of vitality. The only foundation, therefore, of a true medical practice is correct physiological principles.” Others entertain the old pathological notions, and even Dr. Trall seems to favor them, of fever and inflammation as disease, and of “diseases” as if they were “legion.”

They agree with us in the abstract, that “disease is the abnormal state,” and, of course, a unit (Trall Vol. I, page 4,) but still, from confusion of ideas on the subject, they call the abnormal actions of the animal economy, as irritation, fever and inflammation, diseases, and divide them out into as many as the Allopathic faculty do. They

agree with us in the principle, and, as far as they know how, in the practice of aiding nature in the cure of disease with hygienic agencies alone.

DIFFERENCES.—The Hydropathic doctors differ from us in the rejection of a vast multitude of innocent and effective agents in the treatment of disease. Dr. Trall says (W. C. J., Vol. XVIII, No. 4): “Of drug remedies in *any* sense, from calomel and antimony, down through lobelia and nervines to raspberry leaves and catnip—all or either, we dispute their innocence.”

They make no distinction between the above and others, except the mere degree of their power, and assert that none of them act on the body, but affirm that the body “resists” them all, “contemplating their expulsion.” They affirm that “all drug-remedies—lobelia and cayenne, as well as calomel and opium—are absolutely poisons” (W. C. J., page 85,) “and that the true healing art must be predicated on the employment *entirely* of some other agents as remedies;” and that the whole system of administering drugs to cure disease, ought to be abandoned as unsound in philosophy and injurious in its results.”—*ib.*

Finally (for we have neither time nor space to enumerate more points at present,) they differ from us in continually contradicting themselves, and thus neutralizing their own assertions—e. g.:

Dr. Trall says, as above, “Our main position, in general terms, may be thus stated: The symptoms or phenomena which result when a drug remedy is taken into the system, are the evidences of vital resistance to the drug (the action of the system against the drug, contemplating its expulsion), and not the remedial action of the drug on the animal economy.” But in his Cyclopaedia, vol. 2, p. 15, he says: “Tartar emetic produces vomiting; Jalap or Senna purges; mercury and tobacco salivate; opium and catnip produce perspiration; nitre and green tea produce diuresis; spanish flies and boiling water raise a blister on the skin; calomel and pink-root operate as vermifuges; iron operates as an emenagogue,” &c.

Perhaps the Doctor will say, that the *phenomena* of vomiting, purging, salivating, sudoresis, diuresis and the propulsion of the skin and its lesion from the subjacent tissue in blistering, are produced by the action of the vital force through its appropriate organs. If so, he is correct so far, and argues with us: but we understand him to mean something more than this, by the remark, “*why, how and wherefore*, these effects are thus and so, we are as ignorant, as far as their [the Allopathists’] labors are concerned, as are the inhabitants of the moon.” Amen, say we; but we are sorry to add, that our brother Trall must leave us still in the same Egyptian darkness, so long as he believes the paradoxes, that “all drug remedies are absolutely poisons,” while “none of them act upon the body;” that some of them “produce” emesis, others catharsis, others sudoresis, others diaresis, others vesication; and yet all the

phenomena that result from the introduction of any of them into the system are simply the efforts of the organism to cast them out. He says that "drugs do not act on the organism;" and yet (page 16,) "when a drug medicine of any kind, or a poison of any kind [you said they were 'all absolute poisons?'] is taken into the stomach, * * the vital powers *feel* an attack upon the citadel of life, and prepare to act defensively" against "the poisonous or medicinal agent." Pray, how can an "attack" be made by an "agent" that does not "act"? Does he not see great inconsistency here? He says, "an unusual quantity of mucus and serum is secreted to protect the coats of the stomach from the poisonous or medicinal agent." Suppose it were not protected, or the poison were sufficiently corrosive to overcome it and decompose the tissue, would that decomposition be the action of the body upon the drug, a physiological action? He says, "the stomach does not suffer alone," &c. How can that or any other organ suffer from what does not act upon it? He may say that the physiological act of vomiting produces the suffering, and then we will answer, that his "hygienic agencies," of which this is one, and his warm water, with which he often "produces" it, are, like lobelia, cayenne and bayberry, "absolutely poisons," for they excite the same actions.

Here follow several pages on the rationale of drug medication, in which there is much said that is true and good, particularly in the way of pulling down; and also much that is equally as contradictory and absurd as the above, but at last only a partially true explanation of the modus operandi of medicines. For example:

Speaking of "tonics" or "strengthening medicines," he says: "Among the tonics we find a most incongruous set of materials, as quinine, arsenic, boneset, iron, wormwood, oak bark, quassia, aloes, rhubarb, copper, zinc, &c.," and yet he has himself pronounced them perfectly congruous so far as their medical effects are concerned, for, they are "absolutely poisons," yet they "do not act." Does not our friend see some contradiction here? Shall we help him out of it?

He says: "It is a law of the animal economy, that all injurious agents which gain admission, no matter how, within the domain of vitality, are counteracted, neutralized or expelled, in such a manner as will produce the least injury or disturbance to the organism." Then lobelia must be an innocent agent, for, if you give it by enema, though the bowels could cast it back again without any "injury or disturbance" to the stomach, yet what is the fact? The bowels relax and receive it and convey its "action" all over the system, and presently the "disturbing phenomenon" of vomiting takes place! And even the lobelia is not cast out, but, after having "produced," by virtue of its own inherent relations to the vital tissue, the "phenomenon" of relaxation, it passes off in the perspiration. Drink a cup of spearmint tea. If it were an "absolute

poison," to be expelled by the nearest route, it, like lobelia, or sulphate of zinc, should excite vomiting; but it does no such thing. It is kindly absorbed into the system, it loosens and soothes all nervous irritation, and passes off in solution in the perspiration, expiration, diuresis, &c. Lobelia is mild and gentle in its action, yet it excites emesis; cayenne is severe and powerful, yet it passes downward and outward; bitter-root is more sickening than lobelia, yet it usually goes downward.

You say: "If a large dose of ipecac. is swallowed, its action [you said it does not act] is met with such violence of resistance as to produce severe spasmodic contractions of the muscular fibers of the stomach and abdominal muscles," &c. Is not the same result produced when you give your large dose of warm water? and, if so, does this phenomenon prove ipecac. to be any more "absolutely poisonous than your "hygienic agencies"?" The phenomena that immediately follow the administration of an agent are not always evidence of its good or evil character.

You have spoken of articles used as tonics, as a very incongruous jumble of agents—and so they are. You say: "All authors agree that, if the use of a tonic is long continued, the effect is debility," and you object to them on that ground. But they are right, and you are wrong. If your objection is valid, it proves too much. You prescribe exercise as a tonic, yet you know that, "if continued too long, the effect is debility." The same is true of full inspirations of fresh air; yet you rank these among your "hygienic agencies," not your "absolute poisons."

You make it an objection to tonics that they must be changed. Do you object to exercise as a tonic on that account? Will not "a large dose" of cold water, "too long continued," be "followed by debility"? Do you, therefore, put cold water, judiciously adapted to the case, among the tonic "drug poisons"?

Dear, good brother, is it not evident that there is something wrong in your philosophy? And will you not be compelled to be more correct in fact and logical in argument before you convince us, or the public, that "medicines do not act on the body," and that all but food and water are "absolute poisons"?

WATER CURE.

To DR. TRALL: DEAR SIR—In accordance with your request in the Water Cure Journal, page 85, we will tell you precisely what we mean by the terms, "drugs," "poisons," "remedies," "hygienic agencies," "medicines," "food," "drink," &c., and by such phrases as "remedies that agree with the constitution," "innocent medicines," "medicines which are in their nature inimical to the human constitution," "medicinal agents," &c.:

1st Drugs.—A popular name for every thing that is or has been given in the treatment of disease.

2d. *Poisons*.—*a* Articles whose chemical affinities war against organic integrity, as bichloride of mercury (rats bane,) rhus toxicodendron (poison sumach), cantharides (Spanish flies).

b Articles which, being decomposed in the system, generate a gas that causes swelling, and consequent mechanical obstruction to vital action, as the cause of milk sickness.

c Articles which deprive an organ of the power to perform its functions without producing lesion, as prussic acid, opium and other narcotics.

3d. *Remedies*.—Articles or agencies which incite or excite the organs to physiological action without injury to the tissue or its functions, as pure air, water, ginger, raspberry leaves, lobelia, asarum, catnip, spearmint, bayberry, vapor bath, caloric, electricity, magnetism, exercise, &c.; any and every thing that strictly aids the vital force in producing the natural actions of the organs.

4th. *Hygienic Agencies*.—(See remedies of the imponderable class): caloric, electricity, magnetism, and even gravity and chemical affinity, exercise, cheerfulness, &c.

5th. *Food*.—Those articles which, in quantities just sufficient to distend the vascular system to its proper dimensions, contain nutritious matter enough to sustain it and irritative matter enough to excite the organs to a normal action, and no more; and yet possess nothing in their nature inimical to the organs of their functions. (See our Lectures on Medical Science, page 97.)

6th. *Drink*.—Fluids which simply distend the vascular system to its normal dimensions, without containing poisonous or irritating matter, as water. This article loosens tissue, and thus removes irritations, dilutes and dissolves substances and conducts them to their places of destination. I am not sure that any other fluid than distilled water, at the animal temperature, deserves this definition.

7th. “*Remedies that agree with the constitution*,” are those that excite the organs of the body to the regular performance of their functions without injuring their integrity or their capacity for action, as “catnip tea,” ginger, lobelia, &c.

8th. “*Innocent Medicines*” are those that do the body no harm, as the above.

9th. “*Medicines which are in their nature inimical to the constitution*” are, first, those which unite with and decompose its tissue, atom by atom, and thus commit depredations upon integrity—as the bichloride of mercury; or, whose power dispossesses the available vital force without destroying the organic structure, as narcotics.

10th. *Medicinal Agencies* are the forces, as caloric, electricity, chemical affinity, &c., as distinguished from solid substances. It is not, however, material to use the word agencies at all—agents will do as well for all; and we have used them sometimes indifferently, the one for the other.

Having given you the definitions you requested, we respectfully

ask why you wish us to finish all we have to say before you reply? We finish each article as we go, and see not why you do not reply to each. Is there not something in our first article (page 106 to 108 of our journal) worth your careful attention? Are not our positions very plainly stated on page 108? Possibly, you have not noticed that article. We commend it to your attention. We would like to see how you refute its arguments. You simply state, on page 82, that drugs do not act remedially on the animal economy, but that "the system acts against the drug, contemplating its expulsion."

You gave us no proof of the correctness of this statement, but go on: "*this being true* [which is to be proved, as we deny it], it follows that all drug remedies, the lobelia and cayenne of the Physiopathists as well as the calomel and opium of the Allopaths [and you might as well have added, the cold or hot water, and all the food, of the Hydropathists] are absolutely poisons." You say this principle is either true or false; you think the former. We say the latter, and we think we fully proved it (pages 106 to 108 and 113 to 116) by facts and arguments which you have not attempted to answer.

You say, page 86, we are to prove that our articles are innocent. If a *man* is to be considered innocent till he is proved guilty, why not a *medicine*? Do you require us to prove a negative? We declare we never knew our remedies to do any harm when rightly applied. You say they are "absolutely poison." On whom desolves the *onus probandi*? But we can prove *even the negative*:

We have taken them, and given them to others, for twenty years, and are sure that they have not injured either us or our patients. They have always relieved ourself of sickness, and made us feel better than before we took them. Is not this proof that they are "innocent"? Will you give us demonstrative proof that they are "absolute poisons"? *Mere* "opinions" are not science.

OUR POSITIONS.—1st. We agree with you, that the organism *acts* in some way on all substances introduced into its domain.

2d. We affirm that all substances thus introduced act upon the organism. Here we are at issue with you.

3d. We believe that different substances act very differently on the organism. You do not.

We shall prove our positions:

1st. By your own testimony for them, which is as good as the same evidence against them.

2d. By vital, chemical and mechanical demonstrations, the only admissible evidence in science.

The first proof we have given (page 106 to 108; also pages 161-2.) If that is not satisfactory, you shall have more.

This article being already long enough, we will adduce the second proof in another. Meanwhile, we wish it to be understood that we do not attach so much importance to the decision of the question,

whether medicine acts on the body, or the body on it (or both, which is true), as our friend, Dr. Trall, does.

For, if this were settled, there would still remain several other questions, viz.: *How* does it act on the body, or the body on it? and, why do different medicines excite different actions? and, last and most important of all, what is the rule which will enable us to distinguish what articles or "agencies" are fit for medicines or "remedial means," and what are not? This last question will call up "the error of errors" of the faculty, in which, we are sorry to say, that Dr. Trall will find himself equally involved with them! and we beg him to rest assured that we shall neither "back out," "skulk" nor "dodge," till we shall have brought him "square up" at this point. Then, we will talk about the question, whether Hydropathy or the Physio-Medical system shall surrender, or whether the former shall fly into the arms of the latter, as her best friend, supporter and protector. (See "Life Illustrated," No. 2.)—*Physio Medical Recorder.*

Original Communications.

EXPULSION OF THE PLACENTA.

BY MRS. P. R. BRONSON, M. D.

[THE following communication was received last fall, just before we left for the South. It was marked for insertion, and the note at the bottom appended; but by some means was mislaid, and on our return a few weeks since, it was discovered among some loose papers. We hope the authoress will excuse us, for this long delay has been purely accidental. We shall be pleased to hear from her often.—*Ed*]

MR. EDITOR:—Much has been written upon this subject, connected with other parts of this practice, for the instruction of those entering upon the practice of medicine. The young practitioner enters upon the responsibilities of his work with so many theories staring him full in the face, that he cannot be fully persuaded what course to take till experience has marked out for him a way to act. By theorizing he often endangers his own reputation, and perils the life of his confiding patient.

I shall take the liberty to express my own views upon this subject; but at the same time shall be under the necessity of knowing that *my* opinion upon a subject so long *theorized* upon, will have a small place in the medical world. But this will not at all abate my interest in the subject, neither does it prove that there cannot be errors inculcated upon this part of the practice.

I think no one can deny the importance of thoroughly instructing the student in every part of this great and responsible part of the physician's work. It may do for a medical *gentleman* to commit

errors, and he will pass it off as an uncommon, unavoidable mistake in nature, that art could not have controlled : not so with woman. For example, one Gent. M. D., in his conquest made it his practice as soon as he entered the chamber of the parturient woman, to administer to his patient large doses of ergot, saying that he had drunk a strong infusion made of an ounce of the drug, and as it did not produce any deleterious effect upon him, he considers it perfectly safe to give.

But my object in this communication is more particularly to speak of the expulsion of the Placenta. It is a practice that I cannot approve, neither can I see the reason of such a theory laid down as a guide for the accoucher. I would not by any means be understood to advocate the idea of at once bringing about the expulsion at all hazards, but to ascertain the exact position and the relations it has to the patient, I think is one of the most important and essential parts of the accoucher's duty ; for at this stage of labor, the soft parts of the mother are not so sensitive as they are soon after—not at all contracted, and the introduction of the hand can be accomplished with scarcely the knowledge of the patient, and the exact situation can be learned before flooding commences, or faintness and exhaustion follow. I cannot for the life of me, see the wisdom or learn the prudence there is letting the patient alone till the parts begin to contract, and the inflammation that unavoidably follows in a certain degree, before we can be authorized to take the necessary steps to cause the expulsion of the Placenta.

I was called a few days since to Mrs. B., in her first labor. The membranes ruptured six hours previous, and blood of an arterial brightness was quite profuse. Labor pains constant, but not severe. These symptoms all gradually wore away till she became perfectly free and easy for a time, but the pains returned more or less every twenty-four hours till the sixth day, when I was called again and found her suffering the same way.

I determined on as speedy a delivery as possible, and commenced giving small doses of ergot, and thus inducing pains as soon as circumstances would permit. She soon had strong natural uterine contractions, which expelled, apparently, a dead foetus in six hours. The umbilicus was of a pale yellow and small, and at first no circulation could be discovered ; but the child after some exertion with great difficulty was restored to life, and the cord cut. All the circulation was the size of a small needle. I then attempted to ascertain the situation of the Placenta. I found upon drawing upon the cord that it was firmly fixed above. By introducing my hand (which can be done at this time of labor with scarcely the knowledge of the patient,) I found it made fast by an hourglass contraction of the uterus, and an adhesion above the contraction very extensive. With some difficulty I reached the upper part, and detached it from the fundus, without withdrawing my hand from the commencement of

the operation. I then enquired if she had had a fall. She said she had fallen down stairs four weeks before. This accounted for all the unusual symptoms of the case. It is the third case of the kind I have had during two years, and have had no trouble in delivering them in this way. Now, supposing I had sat still and waited for nature to do her work, one, two or three hours, what would have been the probable result? I think it must have been attended with great difficulty to the accoucher, and danger to the patient.

You will answer, it is best to let nature do her work. I honor you for your decision. It is a just one, such as you ought to give. But look at woman as she *is*, not as she *ought to be*, dressing in that comely, comfortable loose garb that our mothers wore, never encumbered with an unnecessary garb, and all that they wore hanging freely from their shoulders, constant exercise in the open air, free from the slavery of fashion, her food wholesome, nourishing and simple, such as nature relished, her mind free from the embarrassments imposed upon her at the present; then you may well say, as nature commenced the work of pregnancy she is able to finish it, for then she *was*, and now she *might be*, if she were not literally shackled with every thing from first to last to make it unnatural.

[Our gallantry would not permit us to refuse the insertion of the above communication from our female correspondent, if we had any objection to it; but we are much pleased to hear from *woman* on this branch of medical practice, which we hope will one day be *entirely in the hands of the sex.*]

We must, however, express a little objection to the use of the ergot, and hope that Mrs. Dr. Bronson will always *wait* on nature as long as she ought to, and not be a "*meddlesome midwife.*"—*Ed.*

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE ON MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE.

BY PROF. H. S. LINCOLN, A. M., OF METROPOLITAN. MED. COLLEGE.

LAW is said to be "a rule of civil action, prescribed by the supreme power of a state, commanding what is right, and prohibiting what is wrong."

Medicine or Physic, is the art of preventing, curing, or alleviating disease. These two definitions comprehend those combinations of those branches of law and medicine which arise for medico-legal investigation.

Medical Jurisprudence is that science, says Beck "which teaches the application of the practice and principles of medicine to the elucidation and settlement of doubtful questions arising for investigation in courts of law." It is not a little surprising that so learned

an author, and he is supported by others, should have given so loose and incomplete a definition of this science.—The “elucidation and settlement of doubtful questions arising for investigation in courts of law,” includes, of course, *all doubtful* questions, no matter upon what subject, whether the probate of a will, the construction of a deed, a breach of warranty, or breach of marriage promise, and as in law *all questions may be considered doubtful*, the definition applies to every thing.—The absurdity of the definition needs no further comment.—The definition should properly extend only to medico-legal questions.

Traces of this science are found from the earliest period of civil society. The Jews established a distinction between mortal wounds and those not necessarily mortal. The Egyptians, according to Plutarch, ordained that no pregnant woman should suffer death, and the Romans from the early period, when Numa Pompilius flourished, founded many laws upon the authority of physicians and physiologists. One of their gravest legal maxims was “*propter auctoritatem doctissimi Hippocratis.*” The Emperor Adrian extended the period of legitimacy from ten months (the period fixed by the Decemvir) to eleven, on the authority of the physiologists.

After the assassination of Cæsar his mangled remains were examined by Antistius, and out of twenty-three wounds he had received, it was found but one was mortal—that one had penetrated the thorax between the first and second ribs.

The Justinian Code contains many provisions which have been embodied in the laws of nearly every civilized country. But they were reduced to no system in Medical Jurisprudence till a period much later than the promulgation of the code. The diagnostics of medicine at that time were vague and uncertain, and incompetent for reduction to a system.

Charles Fifth, Emperor of Germany, first ordained that Physicians should be examined as experts in courts of law, after the middle ages. In the celebrated criminal code which was formed by him at Ratisbon, in 1532, says Beck, “and which is known by the name of the ‘Constitutio Criminalis Carolina,’ or the Caroline Code, it is ordained that the opinion of medical men shall be formally taken in every case where death has been caused by violent means.”

The importance of such an ordinance soon received the attention of the kings of France. Italy, the land of the beautiful, the home of poesy, the cradle of art, and seat of science, was one of the earliest countries in systematising and advancing Medical Jurisprudence. Germany, too, in this branch of learning has done honor to her intellectual character and the splendor of her scientific achievements.

England was much later in producing writers upon this subject, but has contributed many valuable productions. The first English work of note was by Paris and Fonblanque, about 1823. More recently, Professor Christison and Dr. Taylor have produced the ablest

works on poisons, and Dr. Gay's Forensic medicine is an ornament to its class. But Orfila of France has produced the most copious and probably the ablest work upon poisons, particularly upon the subject of tests.

The tardy advancement of this science and the very late period at which it first received the particular attention of schools and universities, is a matter of some wonder. The first professor of Medical Jurisprudence appointed in any British university was Dr. Andrew Duncan, in 1806. The Fox ministry from which he received the appointment, was much reviled for the act. In the House of Commons, June 30th, 1807, Mr. Percival in moving the renewal of the finance committee, took occasion to attack the abolition ministry which had just been turned out. He said, "He should not dwell in detail upon all the acts of the late administration, but he confessed himself at a loss to understand what they could mean by the appointment of a professor of Medical Jurisprudence. He acknowledged that he was ignorant of the duties of that professor, and could not comprehend what was meant by the science he professed." On the same day Mr. Canning said, "He could alone account for such a nomination by supposing, that after some long debate, in the swell of insolence, and to show how far they could go, they had said, we will show them what we can do, we will create a professor of Medical Jurisprudence."

There is at present a striking defect in the system of teaching this science. There is not sufficient importance attached to it in the schools, and it is too frequently taught by Physicians, instead of lawyers, who know less of law than lawyers do of physic. It is in a legal view alone that it deserves any importance as a distinct branch of learning. All its medical aspects are sufficiently treated under the various courses of medical lectures. It is a legal application that gives it separate importance, and its instruction should always be the province of a legal mind.

The subject of feigned diseases is one of the most important as well as difficult and curious. There are three principal classes of individuals who feign disease. Soldiers, from fear of danger, criminals to escape punishment, and females to hide their shame, feign nearly all the forms of disease to which humanity is subject. In this country disease is rarely feigned except by criminals. It has been most common in France. Fodere, a distinguished French physician, said that during the conscription, feigning was carried on with such skill it was more difficult to detect a feigned disease, than to cure a real one. During the wars of Napoleon it was carried to such an extent, on account of the immense slaughter of his battles, that it was said to have endangered the strength of his army.

Galen, when once about starting on a long journey, discovered his servant had suddenly been seized with an inflammation of the knee, and the servant declared himself unable to proceed. Galen made in-

quiry concerning his affairs, suspecting something peculiar, and learned that the servant was devotedly attached to a young woman in the neighborhood, from whom the journey would cause a long separation. Upon examination it was found that an irritating poisonous plant had been applied to the skin causing the knee to swell. This may be considered an extraordinary case, inasmuch as attachments to young women, in this country, generally produce a swelling of the heart, instead of the knee, and a proportionate contraction of the understanding.

Dr. Cheyne attended a soldier who was said to be in a chill of intermittent fever. The doctor found him shaking violently, but upon uncovering him he was found not in the cold, but in the *sweating* stage produced by his exertion to shake.

Tradition has it that a distinguished soldier in one of the late wars of this country fainted on the field, but tradition is not always reliable.

The physician is often called to testify in courts of law as an expert or skilled witness.

The first duty of a skilled expert witness is to become perfectly familiar with all the circumstances attending the injury or the death and post mortem examination. Every circumstance, every incident, appearance or indication should be carefully observed and noted down, for no one can foresee the importance a very trivial incident in itself, may have in connection with others in forming a chain. The last grain determines the poise.—*Facts* should be carefully observed, because the medical witness is both a common and a skilled witness, he applies and explains facts and gives his scientific deductions therefrom, and his opinion as a man of skill. His duty in this respect is often a responsible and solemn one, perhaps determining the issue of life and death. But whatever the consequence, he should always be vigilant, cautious, impartial. Like the juror, with consequences, if he be truthful and discreet, he has nothing to do. He gives his opinion, the court applies the law, the jury renders the verdict, the court pronounces the sentence.

The duty next in importance of the skilled witness, is to state his opinions and explanations, as well as facts, in simple, concise, common language, as free as possible from technicalities and scientific terms. If he departs from this he is likely not to be understood by the jury, perhaps not by the court. The solemn tribunal of law, where life or liberty are the issue, is not the place for pedantic display. Metaphorical expressions should be particularly avoided.

In cases of death where there is any reason to suspect violence or criminality has been concerned, an examination of the body should be made as soon as possible after death—examination by cautious and skilful physicians. By this I do not mean a *Coroner's inquest*. These are rarely of any practical use or value, are generally conducted by reckless mercenary officials, with a jury of men picked up at random, often without virtue or intelligence, they are always a

solemn mockery, and frequently a careless intruder upon the house of mourning. Coroners are too frequently party politicians, more eager for the fee than for truth or justice, often almost wholly unacquainted with the science of medicine, and wholly unfit for the discharge of such duties.

I once had occasion to cross-examine an ex-coroner of this city, who was brought into court as a skilled witness in a case requiring great learning and experience. He testified that he had read *one book*, but that he formed his opinion from the opinion of another M. D., who had been examined before him in the same case. He was a man more distinguished for the *number* of inquests he had held than for the ability with which he discharged his official duty. He swore positively that he held the inquest in the case then under consideration *after* the individual was *dead*, and inasmuch as he was corroborated by the testimony of two unimpeached witnesses, I am inclined to believe he told the truth. Inquests as now constituted should be abolished, and inquests constituted exclusively of physicians, who should be paid for their services. Grand Juries are another institution which I have not room to consider, neither does my subject demand it, but which I candidly assert ought also to be dispensed with. They are inconsistent with themselves, and with the intelligence of the age.

The physician's duty calls him more frequently than any other person to witness the solemnities of the death bed. He is generally present, if any one is present, when the last words are uttered. He if any one, is there calm and collected, and capable of observing and remembering the dying words; and here another duty devolves upon him. Those words should be by him carefully noted and retained, they may be of the utmost importance in a legal investigation. The solemnity of death when hovering about the patient when all hope of life is cut off, the law presumes has removed all motives for falsehood and removed him beyond all wicked designs, and the law therefore has given to such influence the solemnity of an oath. If the person is conscious he cannot recover, and must die soon, his statements are admitted in evidence with the same effect as those of a witness in court.

Books are the foundation of the physician's knowledge. But with all the learning of the books alone no man can become a safe and skilful practitioner. He has much to learn from experience. Experience without books, may be more available than books without experience. Both must unite. A wise man avails himself of the experience of others: and of that experience the books are made.

In a legal view the identity of person is a subject often most difficult and curious. Some very remarkable cases have been reported, showing the extreme liability of a witness to mistake. In 1827, a few months after the disappearance of Morgan, the freemason who was supposed to have been murdered, a body was found on the shore

of Lake Ontario, appearing to have been several months dead, an inquest was held upon the body, and a verdict that the deceased's name was unknown, and that he came to his death by drowning. A rumor was soon after started that it was the body of William Morgan. The body was disinterred, a second inquest held, Mrs. Morgan, the widow, was present, and testified that the size, form, complexion, features, hair, and every thing but the dress, resembled exactly those of William Morgan, and that the deceased was positively the body of her husband. A verdict was rendered accordingly, and the body was again buried; a few weeks subsequently a reward was offered in Canada for the body of Timothy Monroe who had been mysteriously absent for several months. His description corresponded with that of the body found, and a third inquest was held, when it was proved beyond a doubt that the body was not that of William Morgan but the body of Timothy Monroe. The identity was determined by the dress and some papers in the pockets.

The modern institution of life Insurance companies has given a new field for the exercise of medical skill. This institution was first introduced into this country in 1818, when the Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance and Trust company was incorporated. The New-York Life Insurance and Trust company, organized in 1830, was about the earliest company in this state. Upon these companies fraud is very often practiced by persons in ill health or afflicted with some fatal but slow disease, insuring their lives and concealing their infirmity. This has become a subject of frequent litigation. The most absurd case that has met my attention, is said to have occurred in Boston. An old bachelor, unmarried, miserly and miserable (bachelors are not all miserly or miserable,) insured his life for his own benefit, and then committed suicide to get the money.

The subject of insanity is one of the most frequent investigation in medical jurisprudence. It is attended with great difficulties, and demands the most careful and laborious study. To distinguish soundness from unsoundness of mind requires not only an acquaintance with the rules and principles laid down in the books, but also a thorough knowledge of the human mind derived from observation. Mind and the machinery by which it operates is so various and so mysterious in its structure and developments, that nothing but long habits of observation, and, as far as possible, analogies and classification, can give that intelligence and judgment which enable us to appreciate real sanity, and to discriminate the early or partially developed stages of insanity. The field for this study is not found in learned books, but in the mass, endless in variety, of human beings around us. This is also the most interesting and profitable as well as difficult study the professional man has to encounter.

There are some useful general rules well defined by learned authors, worthy of close observation. They may form a foundation or nucleus for further investigation. But the variety and eccentric-

city of mind is so infinite, those rules may be said only to form exceptions.

"The proper study of mankind is man." The human face is a book wherein we may read strange thoughts and character sought to be hidden, yet no two faces are alike.

When a man is stark mad or absolutely demented, there can be no difficulty in determining his condition. But when you approach, through the lesser degrees of insanity, towards the normal state of soundness of mind, you find the difficulties thickening and perplexing, till you reach the almost incomprehensible point of departure from soundness to unsoundness of mind. There is no standard of *absolute* sanity. Hence it is impossible to say when a man is or is not absolutely and perfectly sane. That every man is to some extent unsound in mind on some subject, is a proposition of which, I think, the affirmative has the advantage. Any exact definition of insanity or unsoundness of mind is therefore quite impossible. An act which would indicate insanity in one individual might indicate sanity in another. When a man is so insane that he constantly insists that he is sane, as lunatics generally do, he may be considered pretty crazy. So it is difficult technically to define drunkenness ; but when a man is so drunk that he constantly insists that he is sober, he is probably drunk enough—so drunk that he don't know it.

Insanity is more common in the United States than in any other country. This is due to the extraordinary excitements in money making, politics, and religious subjects, to which Americans are incident. There is a greater ratio of insanity in California than in any other state in the Union—exciting causes being greater there. The mode of treatment of the insane has been, within a few years, very materially and happily changed. To Pinel, who opened the asylums of France and unlocked the barred cells, removed the heavy chains of the insane and walked among them as their friend as well as master, not irritating and goading, but soothing and cheering the shattered intellect, is the world indebted for the first great improvement in the mode of treatment of the insane, and from that time kind and indulgent treatment has been pursued with very happy results.

Persons charged with crime feign insanity oftener than any other disease. The law humanely holds the insane irresponsible for their acts. A man cannot be tried for a capital offence while in a state of insanity—nor executed while insane, if the insanity occurs after conviction. While insane a man cannot make a valid contract or do any act by which he will be bound, if he chooses to repudiate it after the return of reason. A marriage contract by an insane person is void. So drunkenness, a species of insanity, may make a contract voidable. Drunkenness is one of the worst kinds of insanity ; but the law does not allow the same exemption from consequences as in cases of other mental derangements, because drunken derange-

ment is voluntarily contracted. So deplorable and oppressive is this species of derangement, that habitual, excessive drunkenness ought by the legislature of the state to be made a cause for divorce at the option of the injured party.

With the *Materia Medica*, and with the different schools of medicine, the lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence has little to do; yet I may be indulged in a brief glance at some distinguishing features.

One of the happiest achievements of the advance of medical science is that of overcoming prejudice. Prejudice is always pernicious and dangerous, and generally denotes weakness of mind or want of intelligence upon a particular subject. To blindly worship an unknown god has been the habit and pleased the will of the people for many centuries. To perpetuate such worship has been the chief aim of the allopathic system of medicine. But fortunately for the future as well as present welfare of mankind, intelligence is subverting the reign of prejudice, and men are beginning to think and act for themselves. They no longer think that if to die in ignorance is bliss, it is folly to live.

Numerous schools, each professing a different system of medicine and pathology, have, within comparatively few years, sprung up and received considerable attention and favor. Each undoubtedly possessing some merit. One may be better than another. From all these let each man make his own choice.

The Allopathic system assumes to be indicated and explained by its name, of course including and using all known medicinal substances and appliances, rejecting none. But the name is a harlot all fair without, and all deception within. The name belies the system. Assuming to *adopt all*, it rejects many of the most healing and curative substances known.

The Chrono-Thermalists have one idea which they indicate by their name. That idea consists in the periodicity of disease. An idea perhaps easier of conception than delivery.

Hydropathy assumes to cure all the ills that flesh is heir to, with the single substance, water. This system has the prestige of Scriptural antiquity. Water in its varied forms of liquid, vapor and ice, with its varied temperature in those states, and with its multiplied combinations of other substances as it flows down from elevations or bubbles up from hidden laboratories of the earth, is probably more varied and comprehensive in curative capacity than any other substance.

Homœopathy means "just nothing at all," or as near that as possible. It has the merit of temperance amounting almost to prohibition. It is founded upon the assumption that

"Man wants but little here below,
Nor wants that little *strong*."

Eclectic signifies much in philosophy. But as applied to medicine it means simply "we dare not show our hand." It is the will-of-

the-wisp of medicine, now here, now there, and now nowhere, or as the sporting men say : "now you see it, and now you don't see it."

The only system left, to which your attention is called, is the Botanic or Reformed sytsem. A system founded upon the application of vegetable substances, upon recuperative instead of depletive principles. The name is significant, intelligible, and beautiful. Although it indicates the use of a particular class of specifics or substances, the *materia medica* and the practice of this system are not strictly confined to vegetable substances. It is liberal and tolerant, excluding nothing from prejudice or the spirit of opposition.

There is probably no disease without its efficient remedy. And I believe there are very few diseases that vegetable substances are not fully competent to cure. Yet how great the amount of sickness, suffering and premature death ! It is sad to contemplate the fact, that while mountain, hill, valley and plain, the whole teeming earth, have, from the creation, been sending forth their rich bounty of tree, shrub, plant and flower, not only beautifying and fructifying the habitation of man and beast ; not only gratifying the sense of beauty, the love of rich odors, and the appetite of man, but also inviting the feeble, the sick, the infirm, to receive from this bounty and be healed—sad to contemplate the fact that while this bounteous offering of nature has been passed carelessly by, repudiated and discarded, millions of the human family have been suffering, and languishing, and going down to their graves, for the want of proper remedies to heal and restore, with these remedies lying around plentifully in reach, but through ignorance or prejudice unheeded or unknown.

The physician's mission is not alone to heal the body by medicinal applications. The body often suffers most when the mind is the seat of disease, and no medicinal potion can raise the drooping spirits. The heart sinking in sorrow, perhaps breaking with despair and disappointment, is not the most unfrequent malady. It matters not what cause afflicts, *he* should be able to look within the veil, to "minister to a mind diseased and pluck from the heart a rooted sorrow." This he can do only by cultivating sympathy in himself, and studying and understanding character. For this study his field is ample as the race of man. It embraces the most ingeniously wrought, mysterious, and exquisitely beautiful objects of all created things—the human body and in it the mind. What wisdom, skill, and goodness are manifest in its organism ! Take the young female, perfectly formed and in health—is there any object more beautiful ? The harmony of proportion, gentleness of outline, grace of motion, delicacy of color, refinement of organism, the potency of intellect, melody of sweet sounds, the charm of innocence, fascination of intelligence, the devotion of affection, of all other beings and objects, unite, blend and harmonize in her. She is the *sentient jewel* in the diadem of Deity.

But not alone with the beautiful is your duty concerned. Your

mission is among the sick, the maimed, the destitute, the dying and the dead,—with loathsome disease and with the house of sorrow. It is a noble, manly mission. Let no selfish interest direct you, no indolence delay, no danger deter. The health, happiness, life, of your fellow beings is committed to your charge.

Yours is an arduous profession ; be industrious, be active, be faithful, be generous. You have much to gain from activity. Lord Bacon said, “ *aliud agere quam nihil.*” Let his words be remembered—do anything rather than nothing. Yours is an educated, a learned profession. Ever bear in mind the importance and value of education and intelligence, and the advantages fortune has thrown around you for improvement. Let not your studies cease with your departure from the Lecture Room. Contemplation of the power of educated over uneducated mind, and the increased capacity of the former for enjoyment, will stimulate you to high exertion. Let intellectual as well as professional advancement be your constant aim.

Man is so constituted as to enjoy whatever is beautiful and sublime. Endowed with reason, he discovers the manifestations of the same divine agency in the little flower he unconsciously crushes beneath his feet, as in the gigantic oak that invites the lightning's stroke and defies the onset of the tempest. Mind is the immortal part—the all of man that lives, and acts, and dies not. Susceptible of education and refinement, it is capable of progression without limit and without end.

Knowledge, however, to be useful must be practical. Of what avail are the sublime imaginings of the mere theorizer who passes sleepless nights in wilderings amid the stars ? Though he loads his fancy with splendid formulas and infinitesimal abstractions, which are incapable of application to any useful purposes of life—like a magnificent vessel laden with fruits of the tropics, the gems of ocean, and beauty of empires, cast sailless and unmanned upon a waste of shoreless waves,—he passes away, and the waters of oblivion close over him as placid as if he had never existed.

To the educated man how broad are expanded the sources of happiness and means of usefulness ! The misty horizon circumscribes not his ken of wide creation, nor the blue celestial the glories of the universe. In every flower that blossoms—in every hue of the insect and wafture of its wing—in every cloudlet that trembles on the disk of the moon—in the raven-winged storm—in the spangled splendor of the diamond—in the sparkle of the firefly, and the flame-breathing mountain—he feels the presence and reads the history of a God eternal. In the morning linnet's song, and the storm-daring eagle's scream—in the lion's roar, and echo of the hills—in the rippling rill, and deep-mouthed ocean's roar—in the night breeze's soft whisper, and the solemn voice of the thunder—he hears the divine harmony of nature's anthem.

Education is indispensable to republican institutions. It is the

Citadel of Liberty. They were educated men who planted upon our consecrated shores the tree of Liberty. May it grow and flourish till its top shall reach the arch of heaven, and its branches shall cover the continent. It is for educated mind that beauty plumes its wings, and grandeur displays its wonders. A winter's snow, or summer's sun alike unfold new avenues of happiness to the heart. To the man of letters the terrible is shorn of its terrors—the gloomy of its gloom. In the awful voice of the thunder he recognizes the purifier of the vital air—in the dense cloud that overhangs the mountain he sees the promised vigor of bounteous vegetation.

But education without virtue and high aim in life will not perpetuate happiness of the individual, or the institutions of our country. The retributive sword of justice follows hard upon the track of nations. We now dwell where other races have ruled and fallen. Our wondrous works of art may yet become like theirs, over whose graves have waved the forests of a thousand years.

But, if it be not for us to stay the march of that invisible and eternal cause that sweeps away the trophies and triumphs of man, crowding crowns and republics in melancholy procession to the charnal house of nations, it is for us to erect a mental monument to our nation's glory "around whose top eternity shall play." The individual dies, the inscription on the monumental marble is obliterated, and even the marble itself moulders into dust—but deeds of glory are immortal.

Editorial.

ALLOPATHIC ARROGANCE.

In the American Medical Monthly for April we notice a short review of the "Positive Medical Agents," lately published by B. Keith & Co., of this city. In closing this review the editor remarks: "It will be apparent that the Institute is the polished descendant of old Thomsonianism, and is one school of botanists. Still there may be something useful in its doctrines and it is therefore worthy of investigation. It is a matter of doubt, whether or not these preparations can be relied upon as constant, if they are found useful, and all these subjects demand investigation. The sneers at ordinary medical practice, and assertions of the slow progress, or even no progress of medicine, lead us to look upon the book with some suspicion. Still we should sift out any kernals of wheat it may contain, and add them to the granaries of our science. But experience alone can determine for us what may be relied upon as real progress in these preparations of the Institute."

Here is another evidence that some glimmerings of light are creeping into the dark minds of our Allopathic brethren, "the polished descendant of old

Thomsonianism," indeed ! how *old* is Thomsonism ? Then there *may* be something useful in its doctrines." How long since you found this out? Can it be possible, that Allopathy has arrived to the conclusion that "there *may* be something useful" in Reformed Medical doctrines ? Has it entered the mind of one Old School Professor that there may be anything "worthy of investigation" out of the pale of their theories, although they are so contradictory and changeable? We are mistaken after all, for however much we may flatter ourselves that the truth is coming to the minds of our bigoted brethren of the Old School, they cannot even allow that any good can come out of Nazareth, for "it is a matter of doubt whether or not, these preparations can be relied upon as constant, if they are found useful." We suppose Calomel and various other poisons "can be relied on," but botanic remedies that have been in constant use for more than 50 years, cannot be relied on, because, forsooth, they have not been investigated by Allopathic authority ! These subjects demand investigation ! Well then, investigate them, free your minds from prejudice, and perhaps you will find bushels of wheat rather than kernels to add to the granaries of *medical* science, not to "*our science*" for we deny that the science of medicine is *yours* or that it is confined to any class of men. How supremely ridiculous to claim that the *science* of medicine is all contained in the contradictory and foolish theories of Allopathy. "*Our science*," what arrogance. "Still we should sift out any kernels of wheat it may contain, and add them to the granaries of *our science*." Presumptuous Alleopathy ! Then you intend to sift out some kernels of wheat that the poor Thomsonians may have discovered and add them to *your* science. Alas, poor Reformers, we have lost our all, the Allopaths have taken away the "few grains" of truth we had, and now all is gone. Bad indeed is *our* fate. But if Allopathy has gained a few grains of truth, we poor Reformers have occasion to rejoice and the world to be glad, for if some of our remedies will displace the virulent poisons of the Old School, surely a great advance will be made in the art of healing, but we fear that this will hardly be the case ; as long as the present Allopathic *theories* of disease pertain, so long will poisons be used and nature's remedies be disregarded.

Our remedial agents in their hands, will do but little good, unless they change their *theories* of disease and fully understand that fever and inflammation are not to be combatted as disease.

We have much to commend in the Medical Monthly. It is a progressive Journal, and free from much that is "*old fogiyish*," in other Allopathic papers. The motto of the Monthly is evidence of improvement : "*Non progredi est regredi*," (Not to improve is to retrograde), and it is an evidence that the editor and conductors of this Journal are disposed to follow out

this motto, that they can even deign to look into a book that smells of Reform, or is even "a polished descendant of old Thomsonianism."

We will rejoice then in the *advancement* of our Old School brethren, if we can get them "to add to the granaries of their science" any truths that may have been kept from their ken by their prejudice or bigotry, for we venture the assertion, that no medical man, who ever investigated the Reformed Medical doctrines will sneer at or ridicule them, and the only reason that the great body of honest Allopathic physicians do not favor Medical Reform is simply because they do not know what our principles are, and the philosophy on which they are founded.

ALLOPATHY OVERSTOCKED.

It is a common remark that there is too much doctoring, too much preaching and too much litigating, or in other words the professions are overstocked. We want more farmers and mechanics and fewer doctors, ministers and lawyers, more producers and fewer who live upon the productive classes. With all our preaching we do not increase our morals, with all our Doctors we still are sick and also involved in law.

We all acknowledge these facts more or less. But we wish particularly to speak of our own profession or rather we should say, the Allopathic profession, for it is true that the old and stereotyped theories of the Old School, although they are respectable and antiquated, yet they are old fogyish, and we see them exploding beneath the influence of the newer light, like soap bubbles before a gale of wind.

The minute pellets of Hahnemann have made sad inroads upon the *regular* practice. Hydropathy too has obtruded itself upon the consideration of the sick and diseased, and thus thousands are turning away from the errors and sophistries of Old Medicine, and becoming the sworn enemies of the lancet and calomel.

But while Homœopathy and Hydropathy are doing much to pull down the antiquated notions of the past ages, Medical Reform with its close adherence to the no poison doctrines, with its white flag unspotted with blood, and unfolded to the breeze, inscribed on the one side "*Innocuous Medication*" and on the other "*Nature's Remedies*," is triumphantly marching forward conquering and to conquer. There is a rapidly increasing prejudice and horror of poisons as medicines, and a more firm reliance on the powers of Nature assisted by such medicinal agents as act in harmony with the physiological laws of life. The inroads which the Water-Cure and the Infinitesimals have made upon Allopathy, will only make the conquest

more easy for us, for reason and truth will triumph, and the efficacy of medicines upon the system must be acknowledged by all. Hence we have nothing to fear, every thing to hope, and only desire, that the efficacy of our remedies and the principles on which they act on the constitution, may be understood by the world.

Allopathy in her arrogance, will not examine into our theories or try our remedies, but the people are doing it, and from the people may we expect a universal adoption of our principles and a complete overthrow of Allopathy. The science of Medicine must be reformed, and must progress as other sciences have since the dark ages, for it is a truth, that, until the Reform we advocate commenced 60 years ago, Medicine was the same as in the days of old, and Allopathy this day, so far as the treatment of disease is concerned, is no more successful, than two thousand years ago. Is not Reform needed, and will not our success be certain? Is not the crowded state of the Allopathic profession and the great demand for Medical Reformers encouraging omens for our future triumph?

PROF. CARNOCHAN'S REPORT OF A GUNSHOT WOUND OF THE HEART.

OUR whole community has been excited during the greater part of March, in consequence of the death of Wm. Pool, a noted pugilist, whose death was caused by a gunshot wound. The ball having penetrated the substance of the heart and remained for 11 days before death took place.

We condense the following account from the report of this case which is found in the April No. of the Medical Monthly. It is prepared by J. M. Carnochan, M. D., Surgeon in chief to the State Hospital.

Poole received his wounds during an assault made on him by some five or six persons armed with Colt's revolvers. One ball took effect on the right thigh, and brought him to the ground. While prostrate, another assailant placed the muzzle of a pistol close to his chest and discharged its contents. He jumped up and reeling towards a door, rested as if stunned, for some minutes. He then fell and remained senseless, cold, almost pulseless and apparently moribund for about four hours. From this condition he rallied and became almost wholly free from the usual symptoms of severe injury. For nine days he sat up in bed, conversed freely with his friends, and no anxiety seemed depicted on the countenance. His pulse was only 80 in the minute, respiration easy, the surface of the body normal in temperature and moist. The stethoscope revealed the existence of no difficulty in the respiratory passages and the normal *Tick Tac* of the heart beat with

healthy precision. Thus he continued for nine days, till Monday, March 5, his physician found him in a high state of irritability ; pulse 120 ; skin hot and dry, but no pain ; respiration troubled and more frequent.

Tuesday 6th Pulse 100 ; countenance anxious ; complained of debility, but said he had no pain about the heart ; signs of effusion.

Wednesday, 7th March. Passed a restless night, pulse 120 ; countenance more anxious : respiration much troubled, inability to remain in the recumbent position ; symptoms more grave.

At 2 o'clock, A. M., Thursday, the patient is rapidly sinking ; pulse almost imperceptible, and with difficulty counted ; respiration short, frequent and difficult ; extremities cold, countenance pallid. From this time he continued to sink and expired without a struggle at 5 o'clock.

Autopsy 7 hours after death. The sternum being completely elevated, the pericardium was seen to be much distended and on its surface was observed a rough spot, which proved to be an opening into the cavity of the pericardium, thinly closed by the exudation of plastic material. A bullet one inch in circumference was found enveloped in a delicate cyst, and embedded to the depth of a quarter of an inch in the muscular tissue of the septum, between the right and left ventricles, about midway between the apex of the heart and the base of the ventricles. Its locality was only indicated by the sense of touch, for as the wound had entirely cicatrized, there was no outward visible sign of its presence. The cause of death was inflammation of the pericardium and heart and its results.

What is wonderful in this case is the absence of hemorrhage into the pericardium and the length of time the patient survived. An engraving representing this heart, with the ball embedded, is published with this report in the Monthly.

NEW INSTRUMENT.

WE were shown a few days since, by the inventor, Mr. Tieman of No. 63 Chatham Street, Surgical instrument maker, an ingenious and beautiful vaccinating instrument, which we think admirably adapted to meet the wants of the profession generally. Its simplicity of construction is not its least recommendation ; for, while there is no waste of matter, as in the common method, there is absolute certainty of success in the result of the operation, if the virus be genuine. Another point of value is, that with the instrument of Mr. Tieman, vaccination can be performed in any number of cases in one fifth of the time less than by the common lancet, and maceration of the virus. We have an instrument, formerly in possession of the celebrated Dr. Fausher, and invented by him, and although costing some

six times as much as the one referred to above, yet is cumbrous, and but of little utility when compared with this. We bespeak for it an examination by the profession generally.

T. S. S.

EXPERIMENTS WITH THE GELSEMINUM.

WE notice in the April No. of the Southern Reformer some interesting experiments on animals with the Gelseminum. We want Dr. Austin to try pure whisky in the same doses on the animals and note the effects. If the Doctor will do this, he will then have conferred a favor on our fraternity. We have some suspicion that Alcohol will produce many of the symptoms noticed by the doctor. If Gelseminum will kill animals let it forever be banished from our Materia Medica. No one is better qualified to do this than our friend Austin, and if he finds this article a poison, we shall begin to believe it is unworthy of a place in our vocabulary of remedies.

CONNECTICUT BOTANICO MEDICAL SOCIETY.

THE regular annual meeting of the Conn. Bot. Med. Society will be held at Hartford, on Tuesday the 8th of May 1855. Papers on various medical topics will be read, and addresses given. A general attendance is particularly requested. Members and delegates will call at the Office of I. J. Sperry M. D. No. 102 Main Street, where they will learn the place of meeting. Members and Delegates will bear in mind that by law of the Society, it is called to order at 2 o'clock, P. M.

T. S. SPERRY, M. D.
Rec. Secretary.

CLOSE OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE METROPOLITAN MEDICAL COLLEGE.

THE commencement exercises of this Institution will occur in connexion with the meeting of the State Society on the 12th of June next. The valedictory address will be delivered by Prof. Sperry. The friends of Medical Reform are invited to attend.

THE length of Prof. Lincoln's Lecture will not prevent its careful perusal by our readers, for they will be richly repaid for the time employed. Prof. Archer's Introductory to his course on Theory and Practice in the Metropolitan Medical College, will appear in our next number. Our friends will thus judge somewhat of our Faculty.

NEW YORK BOTANIC MEDICAL SOCIETY.

THE annual meeting of this old Society will commence in New York City at the Hall of the Metropolitan Medical College, No. 68 East Broadway, on the 2nd Tuesday of June, (12th,) at 10 A. M. The members and friends of Medical Reform are specially invited to come prepared to remain two days as the commencement exercises of the College will take place on this occasion.

~~NOT~~ THE notice of the National Eclectic Convention, which was sent us by Prof. Johnson was received too late for this number, we have room only to say that it will be held in this city on the 5th of June.

To PREVENT FERMENTATION.—One dram of Spirits ammonia put into a pint of fermenting syrup, will neutralize the acid at once, and prevent fermentation, no smell or taste of the ammonia remaining.

This is a most valuable discovery made by Dr. J. Law of 68 East Broadway, N. Y. It will enable our practitioners and druggists to preserve many gallons of medicated syrups, which would otherwise be lost. Pass it round.

OUR EXCHANGES.

"TRUE AMERICAN."—This national newspaper is worthy the patronage of the whole American people. It is published every Saturday morning simultaneously in New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Baltimore. It is devoted to the interests of the *American party*, and strenuously contends that "*Americans shall rule their own country.*"

Terms, \$2 per annum, 10 copies to one address \$15. Address "True American," No. S Spruce St., N. Y.

U. S. MAGAZINE.—This monthly is the cheapest illustrated magazine in the country. It enters on its 2nd vol. this month with encouraging evidence of favor. Extended arrangements have been made, to make the next volume of this magazine for superior to the first. The best artists are engaged upon its engravings, and the volume will contain from three to four hundred illustrations of scenes and incidents in American History. The portraits of distinguished individuals, and biographical sketches will also be continued. A portion of this magazine will be devoted to the subjects of mechanics and manufacturers. There will also be an illustrated series of articles on the subject of popular Education, such as engraved views of the

Free Academy and Public School Buildings of N. Y., also views of cities, public buildings, scenery, curiosities &c., a page of wit and humor with "picters." Single subscription, \$1 per annum. Large and valuable premiums are offered for clubs. Address, J. M. Emerson & Co., Nos. 1, 3, 5 & 7 Spruce St., New York.

BUCHANAN'S JOURNAL OF MAN.—This really scientific Journal has reached us, as usual filled with interesting matter. The editor is a fearless pioneer, who investigates man's intellectuality and seeks to find out the hidden springs which act upon the physical organization. This Journal of Man is in advance of the age and worthy the patronage of an enlightened and progressive race. Terms, \$1 per annum in advance. Cincinnati, Ohio.

THE OPAL.—Is a monthly of 32 pages, devoted to usefulness and edited by the patients of the State Lunatic Asylum of New York. It is ably conducted and bears little evidence of Insanity in its editorial columns. "The Opal commends itself to the generous and philanthropic whose sympathies are with the unfortunate, and whose hearts are open to their relief." Terms, \$1 per annum in advance. Address, Opal, Utica, N. Y.

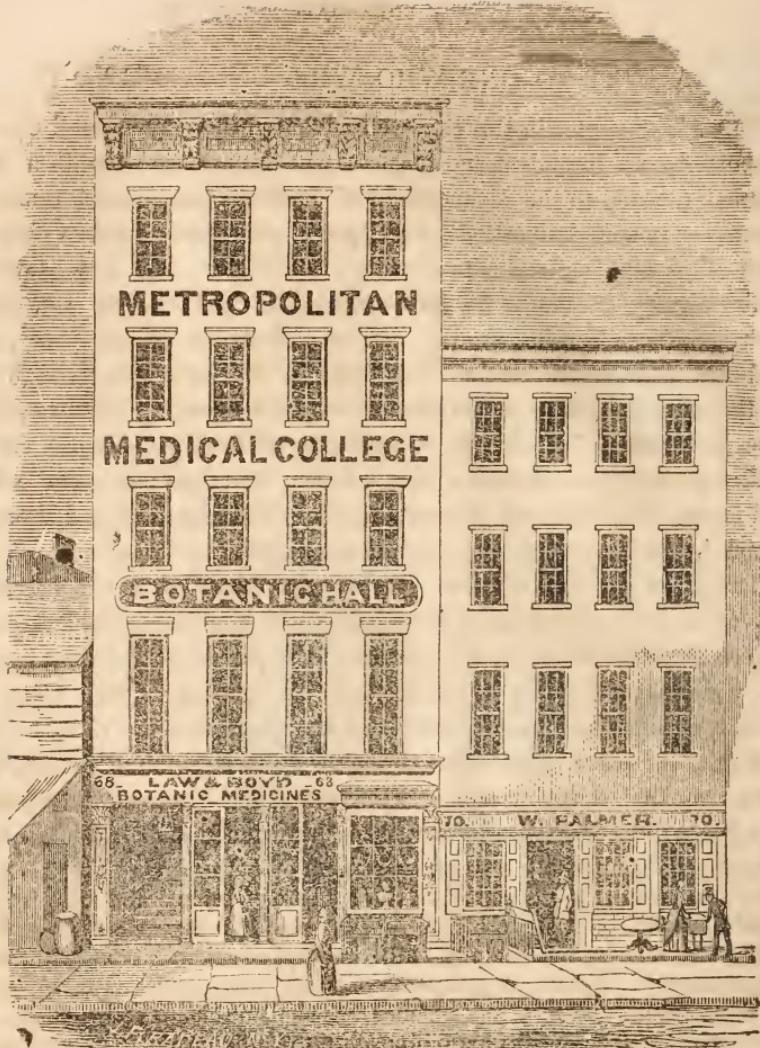
LIFE ILLUSTRATED.—This weekly publication of Fowlers and Wells, is one of the best, if not the best weekly miscellaneous paper in the U. S. It is just what every family ought to have; for it is adapted to the tastes of all in the family, not one but will read it and be interested. Terms, \$2. 308 Broadway, N. Y.

NASHVILLE JOUR. OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY.—This is the largest medical monthly in the U. S. It has 88 pages, independent of index, title page, &c. It is now in its 8th Vol., and may be said to be established on a firm basis. The Nashville Journal takes the same place at the South and West which the Med. Monthly does in this City. It is ably edited by Profs. Dowling and Eve, of the Medical Department of the University of Nashville, the largest Allopathic College in the South or West. The selections are excellent, and the editorials are of a high order. We hope a few rays of truth from our humble sheet will shine into the dark corners of Allopathy. Price, \$3 per annum in advance. Address, Nashville Medical Journal, Nashville, Tenn.

A HINT TO ONE WHO WILL UNDERSTAND IT.

THERE is an editor in this city, well advanced in years, of well developed proportions, fat, impudent and reckless, who issues once a month a Medical Journal, devoted to the advancement of medical science and scurrility,—abounding in self glorifications of a clique of pious and pompous philanthropists of the nightcap and slipper order of old fogies, who look down with owlish dignity on all who do not belong to the same rickety set, whether their names are enrolled on the lists of Allopathy, Homœopathy, or the Reformed School of Practice. This editor is the aqueduct through which all the scum and slime of this precious clique is monthly discharged. He loves his mission. No hungry beggar ever sat down to a feast of fat things with a greater gusto or with a keener relish, than does our editor set himself to the delightful task of emptying himself of the gall and wormwood which has accumulated from one month's end to the other.

This biped is a man of titles. He was first heard of in a southern city, where his loud professions of piety gained for him an enviable reputation, especially amongst the weaker portion of the parish, until strange reports of the weakness and frailty of the doctor in his intercourse with some of his female patrons, became so pointed and alarming, that he made a sudden exit from the scene of his labors, bringing up in New York, where he has since remained, snapping and growling like a dog disturbed in his possession of a bone. Once or twice he has been threatened with suits at law for uttering and publishing scandalous reports of better men than himself, on which occasion this pompous man of the pendulous abdomen and high head has been brought to his knees, presenting an aspect of fear and trembling that has excited the pity and contempt of all who have witnessed his degradation. We are in possession of some facts connected with the history of this man, which, in self defence, we shall publish to the world, if we have another specimen of his billingsgate towards us and the College with which we are connected. He will find that men whom he designates as ignoramuses and quacks are not devoid of sufficient self respect to manifest a proper spirit of resentment when thus attacked. With colleagues around us, who in point of literary ability and medical skill and learning are inferior to none of the set for which he bites and barks, he will be made to understand that we are not altogether devoid of support, and that they will not always bear his taunts and jeers without letting the world know something of the man who thus presumes to stigmatise and blacken their good name and fame. Other medical journals of the same School of Practice, rather leave us alone, to pursue the even tenor of our way, or speak of our Journal and College with respect. But this man seems to have forgotten, if he has ever learned the attributes of the gentleman; and ever since he has published his wheelbarrow sheet has been venting his spite and spleen upon Medical Reform and Medical Reformers. In his next exhortation to the faithful, let him take to his text: "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor."



The next Session of the Metropolitan Medical College will commence on the second Tuesday in March, 1856, and continue four months.

The entire fee for Matriculation and Lectures will be	\$100.00
Graduation,	20.00
Students having attended two courses in any other Medical College, but none in this,	10.00

As we are desirous to accommodate all who wish to enter the profession, if any student is limited in his circumstances and unable to pay the full amount, by making arrangements with the President of the Board and the Faculty, he can be admitted on more favorable terms, which arrangement shall be confidential.

Good Board can be obtained in the city for \$2.50 to 4.50 per week, with all the comforts of good room, lights, fuel, &c.

Students wishing further information will address H. M. Sweet, M. D., Sec., at the office of the Board of Trustees, No. 16 West 13th Street, N. Y. or Prof. I. M. Comings, No. 68 East Broadway.

THE
Journal of Medical Reform.

JUNE, 1855.

Original Communications.

CORRESPONDENCE.

New York, March 20, 1855.

PROF. H. A. ARCHER.

DEAR SIR.—The undersigned, committee on behalf of the students of Metropolitan Medical College, respectfully tender you our thanks for your interesting and appropriate lecture, introductory to the course on *Theory and Practice of Medicine*, and at the same time are instructed to solicit a copy for publication.

D. WHITING,
H. FEARN,
L. A. MOORE,
R. H. ORR,
S. A. CASTLE, } Committee.

New York, March, 26, 1855.

GENTLEMEN :

I am in receipt of your complimentary note of the 20 inst., requesting a copy of my Introductory Lecture for publication. In justice to myself, permit me to say, that it was prepared without any reference to publication and in the midst of professional duties. Such as it is, you are welcome to it; and my earnest desire is, that in some degree at least, it may subserve the cause of *true Medical Reform*.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. A. ARCHER.

To Mr. D. Whiting, and others, committee, &c.

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE.

GENTLEMEN:—It is with no little anxiety and trembling that we bid you welcome on the present occasion. The entrance upon life is at all times a period of deep solicitude ; but there are times and circumstances which mark an entrance into the arena of active life as of extraordinary peculiarity : such times and circumstances are the present, in which you offer yourselves before us as candidates for office in life's great battle.

It will be our endeavor to point out in our introductory address before you, the peculiarity of the times, and of the circumstances which seem to distinguish your advent among us.

Every age has its distinctive features, and may always be recognized from its fellows. The present age is not yet developed enough to give it a name indicative of its true character ; and yet, as it is sometimes with an anticipated offspring, it has had a score of names given to it by expectant aunts and doting grandmothers, which yet wait the final application when the sex shall be determined.

As far, however, as a name can be given to the present age, the most common and appropriate is “The Age of Reforms.” Indeed, there can be no doubt but this will be the name which its godfathers will bestow upon it. It is not enough to say that it is an age of improvements, for the term improvement is too tardy and slow—too expressive of gradual changes, arising out of the natural order of things ; while the real condition of things around us, is indicative of sudden, unlooked for, and mighty revolutions. As though the young infant was born into the world with a full developed brain and giant's stature, and despising the swaddlings of the past age had hurried through the domain of the race, upsetting everything and turning the world upside down.

It is not in one department alone, but in all, that these strange revolutions are taking place in the history of our race. The doctrine of our fathers was, that “safety lies in conservatism,” and so everything was fettered and hampered by rule and authority, which too commonly was but another name for tyranny and oppression. The present age however, has exploded that favorite dogma of the past, and liberty of thought goes hand in hand with liberty of conscience. And yet this liberty of thought, conscience and action is not fully established. They are not all dead, who seek the child's life to destroy it. Conservatism has yet its strongholds and its mighty champions. Men who cannot bear to let go a forlorn hope on terms so easy, are determined if they cannot crush, at least to retard, the onward march of true reform. Hence those mighty throes which are now convulsing Europe and Asia, and which threaten the world.

The vulgar eye, it may be, only sees in the great European struggle, the settlement of a dispute between the Czar and the

Sultan; but the philosopher and the student of truth see in it a far more glorious battle than that. They see in it results infinitely more important than the settlement of "the sick man's estate." They see in it the struggle—haply a death struggle—of liberty with oppression. And their hopes are fixed, not on the transfer of the Crimea into the hands of the Allies, and the crippling of the autocrat's power alone, but the redemption of the serfs, and the freedom of mind from whatever bondage, alike in Turkey as in the dominion of the Patriarchs.

A conflict, if not as bloody, yet quite as fierce, and often carried on with much less honor and respect, has been, and is still going on, in the different departments of common society, and experience makes hope as buoyant in this, as she is in the field of polities and kingcraft.

The same reformatory movements, are rapidly hurrying through the field of morals. And as an old building cannot be pulled down without much dust, so there seems much to lament while there is much to rejoice at, in the overthrow of old systems and the introduction of new ones. At the present, it is very much as it was in the days of Paul, "some preach Christ out of envy, some of contention, nevertheless Christ is preached, and therein we do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice."

In Science, the revolution is all but complete. Such an uprooting of decayed but unburied notions the world never saw before. The world seems to have put on an entire new suit—fresh clothed throughout, since the present generation sprung up. Men no more talk of stage wagons, but of locomotives; nor of horse mails, but electric telegraphs; no more canals, but rail roads; no more donkey gins, but steam engines; no more candles, but gas! And last, though not least, the *Spirit of Reform has entered the field of Medicine*, and with her magic wand has left a mark behind her, which is destined to change the whole face of medical science. Nor is it to be wondered at, that such a gigantic sweep should arouse all the hoodwinked devotees of Æsculapius, and fill them with rage and envy. If when Paul preached at Ephesus, the makers of strange gods exclaimed "our craft is in danger," no wonder that the same cry is raised by the followers of a "*time honored system*," when its prerogatives are threatened!

Unhappily for the progress of reform it has sometimes to cope with adversaries more formidable than those who openly occupy the ranks of battle. It has to contend against deep-rooted prejudices, from education and long associations, on the part, often, of those whom it is intended most to benefit; and the men who come laden with blessings are received with suspicion if not spurned with indignity.

And medical reform is no exception to the general rule. The history of the schools is a record of contests and opposition to whatever has been eventually received as of practical good.

What schoolboy is not acquainted with the preposterous but rankurous opposition which met Hervey's discovery of the circulation of the blood, and which gained him the cognomen of the "Circulator," which in its original Latin signifies vagabond or quack? Who does not know that, through a long life, the enemies of reform followed this benefactor of the race and pole star of the profession with unremitting hate? and succeeded at last in reducing him to comparative penury.

And what treatment did the celebrated Ambrose Paré, principal surgeon to Francis I, king of France, meet with, when he substituted the method of tying the arteries in cases of amputation—applying the *ligature* in place of the horribly barbarous practice of stanching the blood by the application of a hot iron, or boiling pitch to the amputated stump? Why, no sooner did the professor announce his simple and humane discovery, than the whole college rose in tumultuous uproar and hooted him down. In vain he pleaded the barbarity of the old method, and the intolerable agony of its application. In vain he shewed the success of the ligature,—Corporations, Colleges or coteries of whatever kind, seldom forgive merit in an adversary—they continued to persecute him with the most remorseless rancor. Happily he had a spirit to despise, and a master to protect him against the efforts of their malice.

And because Peruvian Bark was the introduction of Jesuits, this invaluable remedy was long rejected by the British school of medicine, as the invention of the father of all Papists—the devil.

And what are the facts in reference to the introduction of Innoculation and Vaccination?—those great mitigators of that dreadful malady, the small pox. Not even the sex, rank and beauty of the honorable lady, who, seeing inoculation so successfully practiced in Turkey, where she had recently for a time resided, with a true woman's heart wished to see its benefits extended to her native lands, could save her from the malignant opposition and calumnies of a wilfully blinded community of bigots. Not even Lady Montague was exempt from the common lot of the benefactors of the race. Lord Wharncliffe, who wrote his sister's biography, relates, that this celebrated lady protested that in the four or five years succeeding her arrival at home, she seldom passed a day without repenting of her patriotic undertaking; and she vowed she never would have attempted it, if she had foreseen the persecution and vexation and even obloquy it brought upon her. The faculty rose in arms to a man, foretelling the most disastrous consequences; the clergy descended from their pulpits on the impiety of thus seeking to take events out of the hands of providence; and the common people were taught to hoot at her as an unnatural mother who had risked the lives of her own children. We now read in grave medical biography that the discovery was instantly hailed and adopted by the principal members of the profession. But, what said the lady herself of the

actual facts and actual times? Why, that the four great physicians deputed by government to watch the progress of her daughter's inoculation, betrayed, not only incredulity as to its success but an unwillingness to have it successful;—an evident spirit of rancor and malignity, and she never dared to leave the child alone with them, for one moment, lest it should in some secret way suffer from their interference.

And Jenner's discovery of vaccination was met with the same sceptical opprobrium and contempt, and long after the benefits of his practice were enriching the faculty, did the Royal College of Physicians, that most pedantic of bodies, refuse to grant him a license to practice in London, because, with a proper feeling of self respect, he refused to undergo an examination at their hands in Greek and Latin—the qualifications of the schoolmaster, but not necessarily the attainments of the physician. To such a pitch was opposition to Jenner carried, that the bible was used as an engine of attack against him, and a grave D. D. of Frankfort, in Germany, attempted to show from scripture and from the early fathers, that vaccination was the real antichrist.

And to this catalogue of proscribed and injured merit, we need only add the reformer and the reformation of which the present school is the representative. The case of the immortal Tuomsoa has its only parallel, in the annals of our country, in the Salem witchcraft crusade. From the first of his career to the close of his life, he was hunted with malignant rancor; everywhere beset with spies, ready to seize whatever circumstance should favor the malicious designs of his adversaries; and at length was arrested on the complaint of a Dr. French, on the false and horrible charge of murder, and committed to Newburyport jail to await his trial. His treatment while thus confined was barbarous beyond precedent in a protestant community: loaded with heavy irons, he was cast into a dark, damp dungeon, denied the use of a chair or stool, and having only straw for his bed, which was *literally* alive with vermin;—without fire, air or light, he was thus detained for thirty days before he was brought up for trial. His food was so scanty, and of such wretched kind, that but for the supplies occasionally carried him by friends, he must have perished in his cell. And when at length he was brought out to receive his trial, such was the effect of the warm atmosphere of the court room upon his exhausted condition, after so long a confinement in that loathsome dungeon, that he fell apparently lifeless to the floor, and hours of medication scarcely served to restore animation. Happily the charge was so unfounded and the prosecutor so evidently malignant, that the judge dismissed the case without charging the jury, and very justly but severely censured the agents of this unparalleled persecution.

Such is the spirit with which, in every age, the progress of true reform has been met. “A spirit,” as a very eloquent author truly

observes, " which exhibits one of the most ungenerous traits in the human character. It indicates a state of mind neither resting for success upon the resources of its own power, nor relying upon the superintending care of a just, wise and holy providence. Because we ourselves are not first in the discovery—or because it may militate against our interest, we would wish it buried—no matter however useful or important, we would wish it forever in oblivion. Pride and presumption lie at the bottom of all these hostilities. It tacitly says, all which can be known is already discovered, or that our fair reputation must not be tarnished by the superior penetration of abler minds. Had we but humility to remember that wisdom is progressive as duration, and that our very highest attainments here are but as the perception of infants, crawling on the very threshold of being, when compared with the knowledge of Jehovah—which shall continue to pour its radiance upon the unclouded intellect of man, as he rises from the blow of death and wings his mighty and majestic flight amidst the boundless splendors of an eternal world,—we might be willing to concede to others the signal honor of adding one single item to the great sum of human knowledge. For it is given to man and it is the high distinction of his mental powers, not only to explore the whole circle of human science, but passing that awful and venerable limit, bearing in his hand the torch of intellect, enter alone the trackless wilderness untrodden by mortal feet—to travel on a path which the "vulture's eye hath not seen, nor the lion's whelps trodden thereon."

But may we not hope that a brighter day is dawning upon the profession, and that with the exploded dogmas of the past shall vanish the obstinate incredulity which has been suffered so long to disgrace the healing art. At least we can safely assure ourselves that whether the clouds of bigotry and intolerance shall still linger loweringly around us, or whether we shall be permitted to share the sunshine of increasing knowledge in common with the faculty at large, the basis of medical science, so successfully laid down by the immortal Thomson, is so broad and so secure that no amount of hostility can shake it.

We wage no war with the fathers of the science. We would cast no obloquy on any name because its possessor might differ from ourselves. Most cheerfully are we prepared to concede the merit due to any system and to any school. We do not contend that the whole practice of medicine has been hitherto shrouded in ignorance, and that knowledge dawned upon the world only with the birth of Thomson. Physicians, of preceding eras were admirably successful in establishing the principles of anatomy, physiology, chemistry, and botany, and the mechanical part of surgery and obstetrics, but for the want of a guiding law, the best achievements of these sciences were found of little avail, in the healing art. It was for Thomson to discover that law and thus to lay a foundation upon which these noble materials might safely rest.

Older authors had indeed alluded to the principles which our revered founder succeeded in establishing. *Hippocrates* and *Galen* recognized the existence of these laws, but to Thomson alone belongs the honor of their successful application in practice. He was the first to reduce the system to a simple and natural science. Hitherto the theory and practice of medicine was built on hypothesis. Hence, nothing was certain. Probability and conjecture were the only guides. And from the time of *Æsculapius* downward, school has given way to school, and theory to theory, "all alike passing away as the scenic tableau of dissolving views." And thus, while the world in all its departments has been in full and constant progress the science of medicine, as practiced by these schools, has made little or no advancement, and her boast of antiquity is fictitious. In vain do they cling to the generations of the past and hold on to the hypothesis of the fathers: future generations will utterly discard them, even as they themselves are continually forsaking one theory for another.

Again, we may state the reformed school of medicine does not denounce and anathematize the different systems as such, nor because they differ: but simply in compliance with its holy mission, it seeks to establish the good and correct, and remove the bad.

It has sought to place medical science on a permanent basis by reducing its theory to certain, well ascertained principles upon which it can build an intelligent and successful practice. It professes to have observed that the principles of disease are as easily demonstrated as any of the operations of the fixed laws of nature, and that an intelligent practice has placed the art of cure among the list of exact sciences. And indeed unless with some certain data to proceed from, how can we expect ever to arrive at that perfection in the work, that whatever be the symptoms of disease, science shall furnish its antidote?

The grand error of the old school of medicine has been in mistaking the effect for the cause, and regarding the simple but sanative efforts of nature as the wasting ravages of disease.

Watson, the great oracle of allopathy, says: "fever is disease and constitutes the great outlet of human life, and is to be met promptly with bleeding, purging, puking, starvation, &c." But contrary to the dogmas of this school, we claim that fever is not disease, but only a symptom or manifestation of disease,—that it is purely a sanative and normal effort of the system to remove obstruction and expel morbid matter from the system; and it is to be aided by those remedies which will act in harmony with nature's efforts in relaxing the system, removing obstructions, equalizing the circulation, inviting the determining powers to the surface, and, at the same time, sustain the energies of the patient.

The reformed system of medicine, guided, as we believe, by the unerring light of nature, lays down the following, as its fundamental principles.

1st. That the principles of true medical science are not pathological, but physiological.

2nd. That disease is not vital action deranged or obstructed, increased or diminished ; but any condition of the organs in which they are unable to perform their natural and healthy functions. A condition that permanently deranges or diminishes vital action in this sense is disease, is a unit.

3rd. That irritation, fever, inflammation, are terms used to signify increased, deranged, obstructed or accumulated vital action in the nervous and sanguiferous system, and are not disease, but physiological symptoms of disease ; and are not to be directly subdued, but always to be aided in their endeavor to remove obstruction and restore the nervous and circulating equilibrium.

4th. That suppuration is to be encouraged and promoted whenever there is accumulated morbid matter to be removed. That *gangrene* being no part of inflammation, but a purely chemical process, in opposition to all vital action, and occurring only when vital action has wholly ceased, the associating of it with inflammation and treating the latter as tending to terminate in the former, has been a source of immense mischief in medication.

5th. That it is the duty of the practitioner to reject *in toto* every means and process which in their nature and tendency, in authorized medicinal quantities, degrees or modes, of application have been known directly to destroy human life, or permanently injure the tissues, or derange the physiological action. And to use those remedies and those only which have a tendency to aid the vital force in removing the cause of disease, and restoring health and vigor.

6th. That agents of this character are not confined to the vegetable kingdom alone, but are found in every department of the vast vocabulary of nature, and are to be seized upon wherever found.

These we regard as the platform of our *theory* and *practice*. In arriving at which we have followed the simplest course of nature.

Leaving the erratic paths of the schoolmen and the pedagogues of physic, we have gone back to nature, and enquired "for the old paths," that we might walk therein and be safe ; and the result of our enquiry has been the deduction of the principles laid down in our creed. We have clearly ascertained that the law of cure is just as fixed as the law of gravitation and attraction. And that the physician's office is never to control, but to aid that law in its various operations. And that the skill of the practitioner lies in his prompt attention to the demands of nature, rather than in his knowledge of books however elaborate and profound ; and in the science of cure, he is most competent who understands best its fundamental laws, which are written in the book of nature and which are ever open to his gaze. Hence those instances which sometimes occur, where the skill of the most celebrated physicians have signally failed, and where the patient left to the anxious care of devo-

ted relatives or watchful nurses, has been permitted a free application of those things which up to the present have been carefully excluded as absolutely injurious and fatal, when to the surprise of all the patient has rallied from the stroke of disease and his cure has been attributed to the better skill of the nurse. The verdict in this case is true as to the result, but not as to the cause. The merit of the cure is with nature herself. When she was delivered from the applications of remedies as fatal to her powers as the disease which she sought to expel, and which were fatal in proportion to the skill by which they were administered—roused her wasted energies and meeting the assistance bestowed by unpretending kindness which she had all along so vainly indicated, she succeeded in throwing off the disease by the outlet which the system itself had provided. Had the skill of the physician been exerted from the first in interpreting the language of nature, when she called so loudly through the fever and the inflammation? and had he treated these as her friends and allies instead of her enemies:—her trusty servants sent out to give the alarm that the citadel of life was invaded, and to entreat her friends to give these messengers every encouragement by strengthening their hands and supplying them with munitions of war that they might successfully encounter the foe and cleanse the citadel of his presence. Had the physician thus understood and responded to the calls of nature, as his accurate knowledge of medicine enabled him to do, the anxious hour of watching friend and the fatal prostration of the patient might have been spared, while the man of skill might have had the satisfaction of observing a speedy recovery. But instead of this the allies of nature have been treated as her enemies, and the attacks of the physician have been skilfully aimed at each one of these as they came to the gates, and every effort made to reduce them, thus leaving the invader to revel in the work of destruction within the city walls.

Not that we would be thought to discard the learning of the schools, nor in any way to retard the eager pursuit of the student after whatever amount of theoretic and scientific knowledge which may lie within his compass. The discovery of a natural guide in the principles of medicine, must give scope to higher attainments of those kindred sciences, which, for want of an acknowledged basis, have hitherto held so anomalous a relation to the practice of medicine. Before the introduction of the Reformed System, the successful application of the different apparatus of the healing art—anatomy, physiology, botany, chemistry, &c., was rather accidental than the result of known and fixed laws. Hence the practice has been rather a series of experiments, than the accurate operations of a fixed system. But now that a basis is given, that a centre-point has been supplied, these sciences can move in their respective orbits with precision and regularity. Resolving first the great principles of guidance, the diligent student can now intelligently pursue his

enquiries into those different and important branches of the art. Now his career is no more of doubtful experiment, but of certain well ascertained principles which are patiently awaiting his approach. The Reformed system does not retard scientific attainments, but simplifies and facilitates them. The great trouble has been that scholars and professors have waded neck deep in the labyrinths of buried languages, or sought among the catacombs of antiquity for antecedents of practice, until they have buried themselves and their profession in heaps of splendid confusion. The reformed system, maintaining always the first principles of true medical science, lays claim to whatever is really valuable in the systems of others as a lawful inheritance, and, engrafting them upon itself, aspires after that perfection which must ultimately crown her efforts; and thus a thorough training in the sciences of anatomy, physiology, botany, chemistry, surgery, obstetrics, &c., is to be regarded as indispensable as is an acquaintance with the theory and practice of Thomson; and no man can expect to occupy an honorable position among us who remains ignorant of any of these and kindred departments of the profession.

Having glanced at some of the leading circumstances which conspire to mark this as peculiarly an age of progress and activity; having looked at the position of medical science in the midst of the mighty revolutions of the day, and having seen the stirring contests which have accompanied its career, the hostilities and opposition thrown in the way of reform, and having pointed out the fundamental differences between the systems we adopt and the more pretentious systems of older schools, and having laid down the principles which guide our particular practice, and shown the importance of a wise and judicious enquiry into all that relates to the healing art, we would now present you with an outline of those topics which more properly belong to our department, and which we shall be expected to treat of in course.

The first part, then, of the course will embrace an outline of general pathology, with an especial reference to those morbid conditions which fall to the care of the physician. In treating on this subject we shall endeavor to keep within the prescribed limits of our chair, and to leave those divisions of this vast field open to the occupation of those professors under whose immediate province it will more legitimately come.

We, then, are to consider separate diseases; and here we wish it to be understood that we use the term disease in this connexion in its plural form, admitting its conventional meaning for the sake of convenience. In this light we shall consider all deviations from the healthy standard whether of function or of structure, by the generic term disease.

In treating on this important branch, I shall pursue an anatomical order as being comprehensive and natural, and most readily assisting diagnosis.

I shall begin, therefore, with the diseases of the parts that appertain to the head and spinal cord, and then proceed in succession to those parts belonging to the neck, the thorax and the abdomen—to those of the joints, the muscles and the skin. I shall not hesitate, however, to deviate from this plan whenever by doing so I can promote your convenience or advantage.

Such is a brief outline of the plan which we propose to follow; and we hope that you have come here with a spirit fully determined to pursue the different branches of study with unabating zeal, and that your object is the attainment of high medical knowledge, and that the standard at which you are aiming is perfection. Every reason urges to such a pursuit—the demands of the age, the facilities afforded, emolument, place, honor—all conspire to urge you on to noble rank in the temple of fame.

To accomplish all this you will need to cultivate

1st. *A deep devotion to your work.* Regard it as a mission—love it for its opportunities of doing good—heartily recognise the great fact of individual responsibility. Every one should feel that a destiny is awaiting him individually—that he is called upon to fill some important trust which none other can fill so well as he. Call it what you will, enthusiasm or fanaticism or whatever else you like, all history teaches us that this is a fundamental element of successful life. It is not a mere desire to do good or to be something in the world; but it is a determination, an invincible resolve not by any means to be thwarted; and which per force of indulgence and habit becomes the talisman of life and is as an inner spirit prompting to deeds of nobler daring—a sort of divinity inspiring to higher life. It was this element or infatuation if you will, which filled the whole brain of Napoleon, and made him the ambitious and all conquering man he was. “My stars have so awarded,” hushed every murmur and removed every obstacle.

The same spirit possessed Julius Cæsar, who through all his bloody course saw before him the crown of Rome, and every strike brought nearer and nearer its accomplishment notwithstanding the powerful and legitimate obstructions in the person of Pompey, and this in the midst of the storm made him exclaim to the fainting boatman: “Fear not, thou bearest Cæsar and his fortunes!” And so of the reformation, like Paul before him, Luther felt he was set apart for the defence of the gospel. “I am lawfully called” said he “to appear at Worms, and thither I will go by the help of the most high God though as many devils as there are tiles on the house tops are combined against me.”

Yes, let the impression fix itself on your minds that you have some great work to do; that you are born for a purpose and not that you came into the world by chance, and live merely by sufferance. But live and act, have an end, and aim at it. In no pursuit of life is the spirit of determination and decisiveness so important

as in the profession of which you have made choice; and indeed without it, eminence can never be attained. How crowded are the pages of history with the melancholy cases of men of splendid genius and noble attainments whose occasional coruscations illuminated the world and blazed forth meteor like attracting universal gaze, but passing away so quickly that hope concerning them is crushed almost before it is excited. Bring with you, too, a love for the work. Let it have the warmest sympathies of your heart, for indeed unless you do this, but little can be hoped from you in contributing to work out that reform we have so much at heart. Do not regard the profession as a mere channel of easy competency, but spread before your imaginations, the wide field of usefulness into which it invites you. You are called to tread in the immediate footsteps of Him who went about doing good, a great part of whose life was spent in healing the sick and attending to the bodies as well as the souls of men. You are called to be the companions and allies of the ministers of Christ to enter the chamber of the dying, to hail the advent of man into life, and to wait on his footsteps as he passes to the tomb. To you is entrusted opportunities of doing good to your afflicted fellow creatures, of loving your neighbor such as no other class of men are permitted to enjoy.—O, yours is noble calling, worthy the pursuit of angels.

2nd. It will be needful moreover to cultivate a spirit of earnest enquiry and research. Never condemn without knowing why, and never conclude without a reason. Do not suppose that the routine of studies which will make up your course in this institution, will so perfect you in the art of cure as to call for no further prosecution of study. Here you may learn the outlines of those principles which should guide the practitioner in his practice, but it will be by diligent observation and research alone that a successful application of these principles can be made. You will find that the practice of physic like every other practical art, is to be learned by repeated exercise, by habit, by carrying its various acts into direct effect again and again; or if they happen to require no manual dexterity, by looking on and seeing them done again and again. You will find what perhaps previous to positive trial you might not suspect, that the senses, the eye, the ear, the touch, however sharp or delicate they may naturally be, require a special course of training and education before their evidence can be trusted in investigation of disease. The field of medical science moreover is capable of constant progression and whatever our attainments may be, there will yet be "much laid to be possest."

Moreover you should bring with you a spirit of cheerful sacrifice, a willingness to do good for the sake of good and to bear reproach rather than to violate a principle.

We have already seen how frequently the earnest reformer is called on to exercise the spirit of sacrifice and fidelity for principle.

The brightest names that are handed down to us from the past, are those who in life were called to suffer every kind of obloquy for the cause they espoused. The most valuable discoveries which we possess were purchased for us by the personal sacrifice of devoted men:—denied a name and a rank among their persecutors in the day of trial, they have assigned them by posterity a name so green that the chaplet of their enemies fades before it.

Like those patriotic men then, be willing to brave the brunt of scandal, to stem the tide of opposition, if need be, buoyed up with the consciousness of right, preferring usefulness to fame and virtue rather than reward.

“Act well thy part, there all the honor lies.”

Not only, Gentlemen, is the profession of which you are making choice, an honorable and distinguished one; but the facilities which are afforded you for becoming eminent in its theory and practice are such as few cities in the world can boast. While in the institution to which you now belong, you have (I may be allowed to say,) a faculty selected from the best practiced men in the profession, with all the advantages of their experience in addition to their capabilities as theorists. You have also the public hospitals of the city open to your inspection, where the different treatment of disease in all its multiplied types and forms may be witnessed. You have also the clinique schools in which the city abounds, and the magnificent public libraries to which an easy access can be had.

With such facilities and advantages as these, is it too much to expect that you will aim at eminent attainments? I need hardly assure you that no pains will be spared in assisting your studies and rendering whatever aid may be required in the prosecution of this delightful task. In return we ask only a faithful and manly attention to the duties of the institution.

In conclusion allow us again to remind you of the great responsibilities which rest on our profession and the importance of cultivating those habits and virtues which alone can fit you for the proper discharge of the obligations which attach themselves to the physician.

In no profession is the cultivation of a high toned morality more essential than in our own. The success of the practitioner depends in no ordinary degree upon the amount of confidence which may safely be reposed in him, both as a man and as a physician. Indeed to such an extent does the character of the practitioner influence the patient in some instances, that his only chance of effecting a cure is by the amount of confidence he can inspire in his subject. This obtained, the disease which has baffled years of misapplied skill is easily reduced and recovery speedily effected.

Eminently is this the case in all functional and nervous difficulties.

You will have moreover in the discharge of your honorable calling, frequently to consult the most delicate and sacred relations of life,

in which the claims upon your honor and integrity as gentlemen are more absolute than can possibly extend to any other class of the community. Cases will fall to your care in which the first enquiry of your patrons will very properly be as to the standard of private confidence as well as of public estimation you may have established for yourself.

Nor will it be unfrequently the case that you will have access to cases where the visit of the messenger of peace is excluded or impracticable, and when the patient whose life is only held by the faint grasp which your own skillful hand applies, is anxiously and earnestly asking the way of reconciliation to God : Shall you who have undertaken to the amount of your medical skill, to baffle disease and drive death from his prey, now, that you see your own efforts foiled in preserving a union, which an inscrutable providence pronounces dissolved ; will you now suffer, the being who in his tabernacle of clay reposed in you such unlimited trust, to pass into the presence of his judge and your judge, with the accusation against you, that you care for him extended *only* to the *wants* of his body, but that you cared not for his soul ? Or will you not rather, cheerfully respond to the call of the dying and the claims of a divine Redeemer, and following his illustrious footsteps become the physicians of the soul as well as of the body ?

And last but not least you should bear in mind that you are entering a school of reform, as well as simply a school of medicine. To maintain the high character of reformer then, you will need to cultivate especially *candor*, *earnestness* and *forbearance*. *Candor* will call forth the exercise of thought and free inquiry into all that relates to the science ; a frank acknowledgement of what is known without pretensions beyond it. United with *earnestness*, *candor* will pursue the objects of inquiry, until the mists of professional darkness are cleared away and art appears in her true character as the hand-maid of nature and piety. And in the prosecution of the great work of reform you will find that little progress can be made in the extension of liberal principles without the constant exercise of forbearance and patience. Hitherto the practice of medicine has been enshrouded in professional mist made infinitely denser by professional bigotry and exclusiveness. One great object we have as reformers is to break down these formidable barriers to human progress. In affecting this object, our success does not lie so much in openly aggressive movements as in adopting the more philosophical plan of annihilating barbarism, by planting civilization in its midst.

For all these reasons then, it is of first importance, Gentlemen, that you aspire to every good and virtuous principle, that you are ever mindful of the high and noble vocation to which you are called, the mission of doing good, and reminded as daily we are by our visits to the chamber of death, of the brevity of our own life. O, be admonished, to fulfil the momentous stewardship imposed upon you

by an all wise God, as that his approval shall mark your course and his blessing attend your footsteps : for after all, remember that it is God, " who healeth all our diseases and redeemeth our life from destruction."

QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF FOOD.

BY J. B. SP'ERS, M. D.

It is believed by many that eating too much is as injurious to the people in America as the use of intoxicating drinks. It may in truth be said of intemperance in eating and drinking, as it was said of two warriors of old, " Saul has slain his thousands, but David his tens of thousands." Alcohol and gluttony have slain their thousands.

The one ought to be " tetotally " abstained from, except as a medicine, by the lovers of the souls and bodies of mankind, on account of its property-destroying, peace-breaking, demoralizing, body-killing, and soul damning tendency.

I make these observations in the onset of my article, that it may be understood in what estimation I hold the use of alcoholic liquors, and that I may not be misunderstood in any reference I may make to their use.

Notwithstanding the great mischief that alcohol does to the bodies of mankind, yet I am fully persuaded that eating too much brings on more diseases and finally kills more persons in this land of plenty, than alcohol. Not that there is more poison in food than alcohol, but food is more generally used than alcohol, since there are tens of thousands who do not use alcohol as a common drink yet cannot do without food. Alcohol, if it were used as generally as food, would no doubt do ten thousand times as much mischief as food does, for alcohol contains within itself poisonous properties, or in other words, alcohol itself is poison, and cannot by any process be formed into flesh and bone, while food is perfectly congenial with our natures, and is transformed into blood, flesh and bone. Our bodies are naturally running to decay. The circulating apparatus in our systems is constantly taking up the worn out or decaying particles, and throwing them out of the system, so that if no food is taken for a considerable time, and the circulation still goes on, our bodies will run to decay, or in other words waste away. It is therefore indispensably necessary for us to eat in order to live—to take food in our bodies in order to supply the wear and tear of the system.

There is a sensation called *hunger* which induces us to take food, and a sense called *taste* which usually dictates to us what kind of food should be taken. Now it so happens that this *hunger* and *taste* are, in the inferior animals, generally sufficient to direct them

as to quantity and quality ; but this is not sufficient among mankind. This assertion needs no proof to sustain it, as every man's experience and observation will bear witness to the fact. *Reason* than must guide us in the quality and quantity of food to be taken in our bodies.

As to quality, reason assisted by observation and experience, ought to be a sufficient guide. Let us reflect that our blood, flesh, and bones are all made out of the food we eat.. And then let us after mature reflection decide of what kind of materials we would like to have our bodies formed. Is it not reasonable to suppose that we partake to some extent of the nature of the animals of which our bodies are composed? If so, then let us decide of what animal or animals we would like most to partake the nature of, whether of hog, cow, sheep, fish or fowl, and then make our selection.

All animal food is certainly "second hand" material. Now the large majority of our fashionable world do not like to use "second hand" articles to decorate their bodies, because they have been used by their fellow beings equally as good as themselves ; yet they are willing to use "second hand" materials to form their bodies with—materials that have been once used by the hog, frog, terapin, crab, &c. Our bodies are formed of the "dust of the earth." As vegetables spring immediately from the earth, the nearest approximation that we can possibly arrive at to the first use of the materials out of which our bodies are formed is the best. "I speak as unto wise men, judge ye what I say."

As to quantity, there can be no doubt but that there is a great deal more food made use of by mankind than is actually necessary for our welfare. What quantity, then, is necessary for us to eat? Just that quantity which is necessary to keep our bodies in good repair and no more.

Our digestive powers and circulating apparatus have to labor in order to convert food which we eat into flesh and bone. Now, when we take into the stomach just that quantity and quality of food which nature requires, all will be well ; but when more is taken than is necessary, the stomach and digestive powers are overtaxed and injured. Now continue this process of overloading the stomach from day to day, and it is like overtaking a man at work and allowing him little or no time to rest ; the natural consequence of which will be that soon he will not be able to perform work at all, or if able to do some work it will be but little and that little badly done. So with the stomach and digestive powers ; they may, by being constantly overtaxed be completely broken down and able to perform scarcely any work at all, and that little but badly done, so that the digestive powers cannot send good nutriment to the blood, and for want of good nutriment in the blood our systems become weakened and unable to brace themselves up against disease-

making causes, hence a great deal of disease and a great many deaths. Then if you are enjoying only tolerably good health, and wish to enjoy better, *do not eat so much and have more regard to quality.*

I propose, with your approbation, to continue this subject in future numbers of the Journal.

Petersburg, Va., May, 1855.

REFORMED QUACKERY.

DEAR DOCTOR.—I propose the dissection of a dead subject for your Journal and the public good. And the *profession* ought to be informed. Did I say dead subject? Yes. Well I am right, for the author of the forth coming "Medical Notice" must be dead indeed, to a sense of professional honor. It is the custom of anatomists to commence in the preparation of material for dissection by first injecting into the blood vessels some disinfecting and preserving fluid, and afterwards to fill them with wax of different colors; but in this subject there is left no room for either, since every avenue of the whole structure is over-distended with professional pretence and bombast. Consequently I shall immediately lay my subject on to the table, and carefully fold down the covering. First, for your inspection, and what do you behold. Hear him speak in thunder tones of his wonderful power and skill in the resurrection of dry bones.

MEDICAL NOTICE.

"He has returned to for the purpose of practicing his profession.

"He uses no curative means which injure the system, entirely dispensing with general blood-letting, the use of mercurials, arsenic and those poisons which tend to produce, after their primary effects, secondary ones, more difficult to be removed than the original disease.

"He has been during the last three months attending hospitals and teaching as Professor of Anatomy and Physiology, in the city of Philadelphia, and, therefore, he feels assured that he can give entire satisfaction to all who seek his services.

"For six months previous he gave his entire attention to the completion of a work on Thoracic Diseases, and hence, he feels that he can treat with more than ordinary success, Consumption, Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and all diseases of the heart and lungs.

"By association with all classes of physicians, he has learned the method in which CANCERS CAN BE CURED, in which the disease has not become so extensive as to implicate the more important vessels and viscera of the body.

"Serfah will be cured on strictly scientific principles, by remedies lately discovered in the Western States.

"He keeps a variety of medicines, both Eclectic and Homœopathic."

"Persons coming from a distance should call in the forenoon."

Doctor, imagine for one moment that you are conversing with an author of a scientific medical work, who is a "professor and teacher" in and from the great medical emporium of America,(Philadelphia,) and you will feel elevated and inspired, particularly if that man be a champion of "Medical Reform." But suppose you see that man stoop to the level of an itinerant quack doctor, a "cancer doctor," a "scrofula doctor," (or even to the more elevated position of a root and herb doctor,) to an ignorant pretender in medicine. He informs you that he is a professor, a teacher, an author, and that he has "associated with all classes of physicians," which befits him by his mode of reasoning *a priori*, for the responsible duties of a physician. "He feels assured that he can give entire satisfaction to all who seek his services." He pretends to cure consumption, scrofula, cancers, &c. He claims the discovery of new remedies, and keeps them secret. He offers for sale "Eclectic and Homœopathic medicines."

What, but mere pecuniary gain could have induced the above notice ? Is "three months spent in hospitals and teaching" any evidence of a physician's skill? Or does "six months" spent in writing and copying works on diseases of the chest qualify a physician for more than ordinary success in the treatment of diseases of the chest? And does the opportunity of associating with all classes of physicians, learn a man the method in which "*Cancers can be cured?*" Or has any man discovered an infallible remedy for the cure of cancer and scrofula? In a word will this doctor tell you or any member of the profession, that he has any knowledge or remedy more than any well qualified Reform physician which enables him to treat with more than ordinary success, diseases of the Chest, Scrofula or Cancer? I venture not; then this notice is a quack notice, and this talk all quack talk, a cheat, a humbug, and as such takes nearly the entire range of all quacks and pretenders. Do you feel elevated? No. Do you fellowship him? No. Do you regard him as a safe teacher? No. Would you want your student or your son to sit under his teaching? No. Do you indeed believe him worthy of the confidence of an enlightened community? We think we hear you say: No! No!

Nevertheless Doctor, the community in which this same young man resides, consider this all as a wonder, and just such pretence tickles the light minded medicine eaters of all communities. While the more substantial portion of mankind regard it as unworthy of their confidence. A man may catch more penneys for a season by taking such a course, but he must and ought to lose cast in the profession, and will eventually lose cast in Society by so doing.

He should be treated and exposed by both the physician and the

public. We regard this doctor for his energy, and for his youthful efforts to distinguish himself, and have looked upon him with pleasure and remarked his usually successful course ; but in this last act we have no sympathy. We believe he has debased himself, and most certainly the profession. We wish him well, and hope, should this paper find a place in your columns, he may read and be benefited by its contents.

REFORMER.

Massachusetts, April 16, 1855.

CHLOROFORM, HOW TO ADMINISTER IT.

BY HERBERT FEARN, M. D.

DR. COMINGS : Sir.—It might not be unprofitable to the readers of your Journal, at least not without some interest to the majority of them, to know the experience of an eminent surgeon (Prof. Carnochan, Surgeon in chief to the Ward's Island Hospital, New York) on the above subject.

The following are a few notes taken at his Clinic, Feb. 7, 1855, at the above named institution, after the administration of Chloroform and successful operation of castration :

“Since there have been so many deaths recorded of late, of which Chloroform is said to be the cause, some having taken place in this city [New York] I am sorry to say, it may not be out of place for me to state my success in the use of this agent, (not by way of boasting.)

“ Within the last five years, during which time I have been Surgeon in this Hospital, Chloroform has been administered to about fifteen hundred patients, in no one case of which has it been the cause of fatal results.

“ Whether the success that has resulted depends on luck, or the mode of administering the anæsthetic, I will not say ; I think, however, the latter had considerable to do with it. The way we administer it here is to fold a cloth of several thicknesses funnel shaped, into which is put a sponge, and about one drachm of Chloroform poured on the sponge : then as you saw one side of the cloth was placed in close proximity with the chin, (the part will depend on the size of the funnel,) the other side of the funnel not touching the face, for the space of about two inches between the face and funnel for the free admission of atmospheric air, keeping the fingers on the pulse, so that when the organic set of nerves begin to manifest its influence, by means of a less frequency of the pulse, it is removed, and if the patient manifest no symptom of pain it is not returned ; if the patient does, however, show signs of pain it is again returned for a moment or two, till the main operation is performed, taking it off whenever there is no pain. Afterwards a little brandy and water or other stimulant is administered.

" Dispatch is one of the essentials to success after the administration of Chloroform, for it is, you know, as foreign to the lungs as Carbonic acid gas is ; so that the quicker the operation is performed (*ceteris paribus*) the better it will be for your success, and the patient's safety from the after effects of Chloroform.

" I have seen it administered so blunderingly as almost to ensure the death of the patient ; paying no regard to the admission of air into the lungs, the patient's face being nearly all covered.

" There are two ways in which death is likely to result from its administration, viz., by Asphyxia, not allowing a sufficient quantity of air in the lungs thereby preventing decarbonization of the blood, preventing Carbonic acid gas from being eliminated, and secondly, by administering so much as to depress the organic set of nerves to such an extent as to kill the patient outright.

" It is not well to administer it while the patient has a full stomach, for if you do, its contents will be sure to come up, and not only be very annoying to you and those that are around, but it will also interrupt your operation and leave the patient in a worse condition, the system less capable of reacting, and thus take considerable longer to effect your operation."

The doctor said that in case two amputations or operations were to be performed, they should be performed at one time, without administering the chloroform twice, and thereby prevent the increased debility that would follow its second administration.

Editorial.

THOUGHTS FOR MEDICAL REFORMERS.

It is now fifteen years since we entered the profession of Medicine. Having been previously well indoctrinated in the theory of Medical Reform, and receiving a year's instruction from a distinguished Allopath, we commenced the practice of Physic, and although we have been engaged for most of this time in lecturing during a portion of each year, yet we have not given up the practice of our favorite profession, but have devoted the most of our time to the regular routine duties of the physician ; and now after this fifteen years of study, teaching and practice, we feel the same confidence in our principles, and the same firm belief in the efficacy and safety of our remedies.

We have always advocated high attainments in the medical profession and labored most assiduously to raise the standard of education among our young men who are entering our ranks. But while we have been thus engaged, there have been those who have considered us as *ultra* in our views, and somewhat behind the improvements of the age, or at any rate,

too strenuous in the advocacy of the "no poison" doctrines, or too restrictive in our practice. To all such we can only observe, that we have never been so fully convinced of the safety and ultimate success of our efforts as at the present time.

The tendency of Eclecticism, as it is called to Allopathy, or of Allopathy to Eclecticism; the almost certainty that one will swallow up the other, and that hardly a wreck will remain, must be evident to every unprejudiced observer. How important it is then, that there should be a pure and true system of practice of Medicine, which will be always ready to adopt all *real* improvements, but jealous and extremely careful lest any innovations should be made upon the old landmarks which are unchangeable because they are founded in nature.

The experience of the past few years has taught us most emphatically, that there is a great tendency to compromise with error, hence the necessity of a more close adherence to those true fundamentals which form the characteristics of our system of Medicine.

During the last ten years a great variety of names have been applied to our profession, and these names have been more or less appropriate, yet too restrictive. There has been a great diversity of opinions on this subject and a manifestation of feeling entirely unworthy the cause of truth, and detrimental to the progress of our principles. We have kept somewhat aloof from the controversy about names, always far more solicitous that the *principles* and *practice* should be kept pure and uncontaminated than that we should be called by any distinctive name.

Since a body of physicians in the West, and some few in this portion of the U. S. have taken the cognomen of Eclectic, have published books as the exponents of their system, we can see no propriety of asking or desiring that they should change their name or practice. They take a noble stride, a prominent advance in Medical Reform, but there is a larger body of practitioners who still adhere firmly and uncompromisingly to the no poison medication; "believing" it is the duty of the physician, "to reject in *toto* every means and process which, in its nature and tendency, in authorized medicinal quantities, degrees or modes of application, has been known to have directly destroyed human life, or permanently injured the tissues or deranged the physiological action; and use those, and those only, which have a direct tendency to aid the vital organs in the removal of the causes of disease, and the restoration of health and vigor."

If the Eclectic is hardly prepared to take this ground, and still adheres to the belief that a little poison may be used, let us like the brethren of old agree to disagree, each take his own way; let us have free and friendly intercourse, let us unite with the Hydropath, the Homœopath and other

Medical Reformers in our efforts to undermine the Allopathic System. Let the strife and contention about names be done away, let our bickerings cease, and like the sects in Christianity unite against the common enemy.

Let the term Eclectic be entirely applied and appropriated to those who discountenance bleeding as a general thing; use calomel only in a few rare cases, and still more seldom the various preparations of antimony; disprove of the free use of opium and only use it in a few cases, and morphine sparingly, &c. Let these things be candidly and fairly announced, and let those who hold these tenets be christened and forever called Eclectics. "Selecting the good and casting the bad away."

Let the name Medical Reformer be appropriated to those who hold to the platform adopted by the Baltimore Convention, and which we have quoted above. This may be considered by some as too ultra and too restrictive for this enlightened age; yet as we find a good number of intelligent and long tried friends who are willing to take this position and to practice in accordance therewith, we claim that we should have a name to distinguish us from others.

Then let the same friendly relations exist between the Eclectic and Medical Reformer as now exists between us and the Hydropath, Homœopath, and others who are making one advance step in correct medical theory and practice. Let each establish and sustain, their respective Schools and Colleges, and as the course of instruction is so similar in all, let each acknowledge the other, so that our students may feel free to attend the instructions in all as may suit their convenience.

Let the different systems of Medicine stand on their intrinsic merits, on the truth and philosophy of their principles. Do not let one claim to be the other, or contend that there is no difference between us. Let these several systems, which all have much truth and are really progressive, remain distinct, have their own books, Schools and methods of instruction, while they regard each other as friendly and Reformatory.

QUACKERY AMONG REFORMERS.

THE article sent us by "*Reformer*," is pretty severe on somebody, but we are sorry to believe it is not undeserved. The Lord knows that there is quackery enough in the Allopathic profession, and that the *bombast* and *pretended* skill of many of those called *regulars*, has been sufficiently extended in the country, but we are sorry to see any among those called Reformed Physicians, stoop to the level with the charletan and mountebank. Perhaps *Reformer* has not given a fair representation of this case, for if the "Medical Notice" is correctly quoted, and applies to the physician we think

it does, there is surely a manifestation of vanity we had not expected from so young and so promising.

Never let avarice or love of popular favor lead any Reformed Medical practitioner to such vainglory, for this favor must be ephemeral, and the wealth gained by such means, must be with loss of professional character and self respect.

~~AS~~ We cannot better reply to our friend Potter of the Syracuse Journal than to repeat his own words in reference to his School, "Many students who had intended to attend, were compelled to postpone until a future session for want of present means, and had the times remained as usual in money matters, the class would have been a large one." We have had an interesting Session, with five professors, and our prospects were never brighter. We have had some 1 or 15 students, but only the number specified as regular attendants.

PROF. ARCHER'S INTRODUCTORY.

We have published the interesting Lectures of our colleagues entire in the last three Nos. of our Journal, although it has been at the expence of our usual variety, for we wished to give our patrons some idea of the qualifications of the Professors of the Metropolitan Med. College. Prof. Archer's Lecture will richly repay a careful perusal and we hope its length will not deter any one from reading it.

~~AS~~ We have not been able to publish some interesting communications from our correspondents on account of the press of matter that could not well be delayed, but we shall hereafter be able to give all our friends that due attention which their valuable articles deserve.

HYDROPHOBIA.

Our city begins to be excited as usual at this season on the subject of Hydrophobia, as the first case has appeared in our City Hospital. Dr. Griscom who had charge of the Medical Ward at this time, in a communication to the Tribune describing the case, makes use of the following language : "unhappily there is yet no known antidote to this mysterious poison, and the symptoms can only be treated on general principles."

Now is not this strange that it should not be known to the Allopathic profession that Lobelia will cure this "*mysterious poison*," yet such is the

case ; for this Emetic perseveringly administered with the Vapor Bath, *will cure Hydrophobia*. When will the Old School physicians learn the virtues of this remedial agent ?

THE OFFSPRING OF BLOOD ELATIONS.

THE following circular appears in the March number of the Western Journal of Medicine and Surgery, with a request to the editors that it be copied into other Medical Journals of the country. The subject is a most important one—it has been frequently alluded to in the pages of this Journal—and we cheerfully give place to Dr. Bartlett's circular, which we hope will receive the attention it deserves.—*Boston Med & Surg. Jour.*

Circular.—My attention has recently been directed to the defects in the offspring of parents related by consanguinity. So frequent and serious have the ill results of the intermarriage of blood relation been found, that I deem it philanthropic to prepare a report on the subject, with a view to leading to legislative action on the subject. That my report may be as full and satisfactory as possible, I have to beg of physicians or others the favor of sending me histories of such cases as may have fallen under their observation.

The following questions, I believe, cover every point of interest in each case. To prevent confusion, the names of the parties, or their initials, should be given, though, of course, these will be suppressed in the report :

How many instances of intermarriage among blood-relations have you known ?

In how many of these were all the offspring perfect ?

What was the state of the health of each parent ? Had the mother borne children previously ? If so, were the first children of her relative inferior to the latter ones ?

Did the parents resemble one another ? that is, had they the same peculiarity of form, manner, mode of thought, &c. ?

Have the parents, in any case, been the offspring of blood-relations ?

How many children followed the union ? How many of them were idiotic, epileptic, rachitic, or deaf ? If none were so, what is the absolute and relative cleverness of each ?

In cases where the offspring have grown up, is there any tendency to insanity, epilepsy, or any similar disorder ?

Has the mother of imperfect offspring married again ? If so, what is the character of the children by this union ?

JOHN BARTLETT, M. D.

Louisville, Ky., March 10, 1855.

CLOSE OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE METROPOLITAN MEDICAL COLLEGE.

THE commencement exercises of this Institution will occur in connexion with the meeting of the State Society on the 12th instant. The valedictory address will be delivered by Prof. Sperry. The friends of Medical Reform are invited to attend.

NOTICE.—The annual meeting of the Botanic Medical Society of the State of New-York, will be held on the 2d Tuesday of June, at the Hall of the Metropolitan Medical College, No. 68 East Broadway, City of New-York.

By Order,

H. M. SWEET, M. D., *Secretary.*

OBITUARY.

Died at Red Bank, N. J., James F. Boyd, M. D., aged 31 years. This promising young physician was a graduate of the Metropolitan Medical College at our last commencement. His disease was a chronic affection of the liver, which has been preying upon him for many months, yet did not cause any apprehension of sudden disease, till a few hours before his exit.

His death has cast a gloom over the minds of those intimate with him, and robbed our profession of a promising and devoted member.

Dr. Boyd was a kind friend, a sympathizing doctor, a persevering student, and possessed an enquiring mind, with an ardent attachment to the profession he had chosen. He looked forward to the time when he would attain a position of usefulness and distinction. But Providence has ordered otherwise.

EXCERPTA.

There are in New York city, devoted to the cure of the sick poor, four general hospitals, four dispensaries, two eye and ear infirmaries, one lying in asylum, three special hospitals on the islands, several orphan asylums and prison hospitals, besides other charitable and penal establishments, where medical and surgical aid is rendered. In these institutions, there were treated in 1853, 151,449 cases of disease, of every variety; and devoted to the service of these patients are 169 medical men, most of whom render their service gratuitously.

A hospital for women, in New York city, is in progress of establish-

ment, designed to accommodate five hundred patients. The services of Dr. J. M. Sims as attending surgeon, and Drs. Mott, Stevens, Francis, and Delafield as consulting surgeons and physicians, have been secured. There are said to be hundreds of poor women in the city, who, for the lack of a few weeks' skilful surgical treatment, are sinking into incurable states of disease. Private practitioners cannot afford them the time and care that are absolutely needed to relieve them; and hopelessly chronic cases are not received into any of the existing hospitals, all the beds being required for the use of those whom treatment can help.

I A company of medical students and others in St. Louis, recently exhumed the body of a person who had died of small pox, and dissected it. Twenty of those engaged in the affair are now suffering from the disease, caught from the corpse, in the most virulent form. One of the students carried the disease into a family where he boarded, and five members took it, one of whom died.

I The French hospital at Therapia being in want of dressers, nurses, and assistant surgeons, the Sultan has put twenty-four pupils of the Turkish Medical School at the disposition of the French medical officers, and the young Turks are said to perform their duties in the most zealous and pains-taking manner.

I The twelfth report of the managers and superintendents of the State Lumatic Asylum has been published. It appears that during the twelve years of its operation, the institution has conferred its benefits on 4,313 patients. Of these, 1789 have been discharged, recovered; and, at the close of the last year, 450 remained.

I During the year 1854, no fewer than 73,697 persons died in London, out of a population of two million and a half—4,765 more than died during the disastrous cholera year of 1849.

I Dr. J. O. Butler has been lecturing at Urbana, Ohio, in support of the custom of wearing beards. It is thought that the doctor makes out a pretty good case and a pretty good living.

I Dr. Wm. Stephenson, of Australia, has sent home specimens of the inner bark of the Eucalyptus, commonly called stringy bark, which is said to be peculiarly adapted for surgeon's splints.

I Dr. Dieti, of the Vienna Hospital, has published his investigations as to the curative powers of nature, from which conclusions are deduced that the faculty do not like the appearance of. In 85 cases of pneumonia treated by blood-letting, 16 died; of 106 cases by tartar emetic, 22 died; while of 189 cases left to the curative powers of nature, without medicine, only 14 died—showing a decided advantage in letting medicine alone.

The effects of the passions on the physical system are various. Fear will specially affect the heart's action, and if protracted, result in physical changes of that organ; anger will influence the hepatic secretion; terror has been known to arrest hemorrhage; the dread of impending disgrace has checked convulsive disease; and hope operates specifically in pulmonary consumption, in many cases being the chief element in the means of restoration.

Mrs. Samuel D. Hillard, of Boston, has had a very painful encysted tumor, of two years standing, removed from her neck, while in a state of trance, by Dr. Pinto, of Groton. The patient exhibited no signs of consciousness during the operation, which lasted about five minutes, and, when awakened, was entirely unaware that the tumor had been removed, or any operation performed. The tumor was as large as a hen's egg.

Dr. J. A. Tilton, of Newburyport, Mass., recently removed a polypus from the nose of a lady in that city. For the last twenty years the sufferer had been afflicted with this difficulty; for eighteen years it had materially obstructed her breathing, and had grown to the size of a common tea-cup, separating the bones of her nose. The operation lasted two hours, and the patient is now in a fair way of speedy recovery.

Dr. Kimball of Lowell, lately removed from the abdomen of a lady in Lennox, an ovarian tumor weighing 45 pounds. She is now in a fair way of recovery. Professor Dugas in the medical college of Georgia, a few days since had to extirpate a large tumor on the back weighing about ten pounds. He surrounded the base of the tumor with the freezing mixture for four or five minutes, which so suspended the sensibility of the parts, that the operation was performed with comparatively little pain.

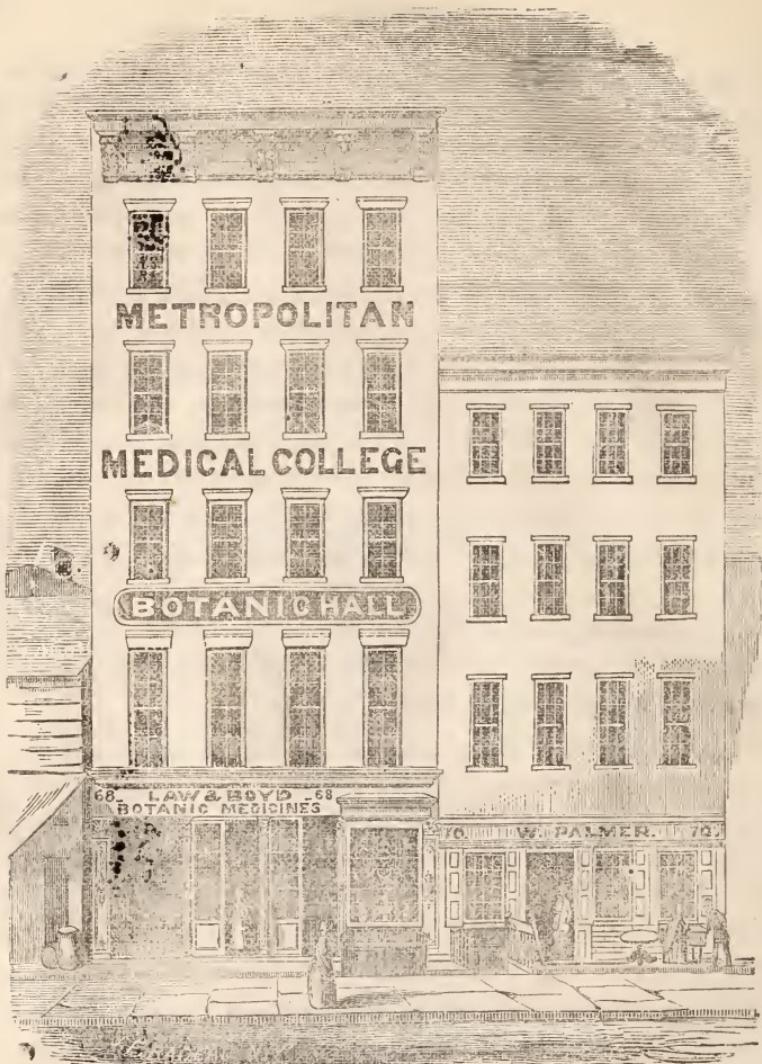
Dr. Hutchinson, late physician to the Brooklyn Cholera Hospital, has prepared a table, which states that the number of cases in 1832 was 1 in 62 of the population; in 1849, 1 in $138\frac{1}{2}$; in 1854, 1 in $221\frac{1}{4}$.

A State Medical Society, composed of members of the reformed medical profession, has been formed in Massachusetts.

The total number of deaths in Chicago last year was 3,827, of which 1,434 were from cholera.

CUTANEOUS DISEASES.

The description of Cutaneous diseases which has been crowded out for the past three months by the press of other matter, will be continued hereafter in each number of the Journal for the remainder of the volume.



The next Session of the Metropolitan Medical College will commence on the second Tuesday in March, 1856, and continue four months.

The entire fee for Matriculation and Lectures will be \$100.00
Graduation, 20.00

Students having attended two courses in any other Medical College, but none in this, 10.00

As we are desirous to accommodate all who wish to enter the profession, if any student is limited in his circumstances and unable to pay the full amount, by making arrangements with the President of the Board and the Faculty, he can be admitted on more favorable terms, which arrangement shall be confidential.

Good Board can be obtained in the city for \$2.50 to 4.50 per week, with all the comforts of good room, lights, fuel, &c.

Students wishing further information will address H. M. Sweet, M. D., Sec., at the office of the Board of Trustees, No. 16 West 13th Street, N. Y. or Prof. I. M. Comings, No. 68 East Broadway.

THE
Journal of Medical Reform.

JULY, 1855.

Original Communications.

CUTANEOUS DISEASES.

BY PROF. I. M. COMINGS.

RUBEOLA—MEASLES.

Pathological description and causes.—The expression “Rubeola” was formerly applied to scarlet fever and measles in common, as well as to some other forms of disease. It was Sauvages who first restricted the term *rubeola* to measles. The word *rubio* (red) from which it comes, is Spanish, and it was written *rubiōlo*, as it is pronounced, the accent being on the *o*.

This is a contagious and infectious disease, chiefly affecting children, and is more severe than in adults. There is very rarely an indisposition to it, for we seldom meet with any one that will not take it. The indisposition is less frequent than the indisposition to small-pox. It rarely occurs more than once. When it does occur more than once, it generally prevails as an epidemic disease. It prevails chiefly in winter and spring. It is very well characterized and there is little necessity of mistaking the disease.

We have frequently, after the measles, chronic bronchitis, chronic pneumonia, chronic pleurites or phthisis. They seem also to give rise to tubercles, chronic diarrhoea, inflammation of the eyes, ear ache, running of the ears and deafness. Frequently there is a disease of the mesenteric glands, and various chronic cutaneous affections. In fact there is no end to the mischief that measles leaves behind. They may recede suddenly, and then we have internal inflammation of the lungs, or within the abdomen, or within the head ; but it is chiefly in the chest that inflammation occurs. Our pathological researches have not yet enabled us to find out whether the

retrocession of the measeles causes these symptoms. It may be that the occurrence of the internal disease puts a stop to the external.

Very young children are considered to be much more susceptible of the disease than adults, though infants at the breast are not so susceptible as others ; for it is not uncommon to notice the disease in a family of children, all of whom have it excepting one which is at the breast. The reason why infancy and childhood are more subject to this disease than adults, may be because it is a disease that occurs generally but once, and almost all adults have had it while children, so that the great body of them are free from it.

The exciting cause of the disease is, undoubtedly, a peculiar contagion ; and this has been communicated by art in some few cases. Experiments of this kind were made, many years ago, by Dr. Home of Edinburgh. In 1822, Dr. Speranze, an Italian physician, repeated them. He inoculated six cases, and afterwards himself, with the blood taken from a slight scratch in a vivid papula. In a few days the measles appeared, and went through their course mildly and regularly. This encouraged him to make further experiments, and he says they were all successful. Occasionally the measles do produce little vesicles, and it is very likely that these vesicles contain the contagious matter in a concentrated form. Other experiments have been tried and have frequently failed.

From the spontaneous appearance of this disease, as also that of chicken pox, invariably in the south every spring, after the whole population have been living upon swine's flesh for three months, we have been led to think that there was some connexion in the origin of this disease, with that of a pork diet, and it may be found on future observation that such is the fact.

Diagnosis.—When we hear a child sneeze and cough, and see those semi-circular patches, we may be quite sure that it is the measles. We shall find the disease best characterized on the face. We may mistake it on the arms, hands and body, but we can hardly do so on the face. It is somewhat important to make a correct diagnosis here, although the disease may be of a slight character, because the physician that tells a parent that the child is about to have the small pox, when it has the measles, will of course be deemed ignorant. Sometimes the spots will go down as fast as they appear.

It is almost always observed in this disease, that the catarrhal symptoms are not much lessened on the appearance of the eruption. In most cutaneous forms of disease, when the eruption comes out, the internal symptoms are relieved, but in rubeola it is often the case that they are somewhat aggravated, and at least they are not mitigated. The catarrh appears to be more or less bronchitic, for there is an affection of the superior parts of those tubes.

With regard to the time at which the disease occurs after exposure, Willan says, that he knew a person who had had the measles,

and became convalescent and his clothes infected a child in the country, and that the child had the eruption sixteen days after being first exposed. The usual period is from five days to twelve.

The measles sometimes occur without any internal affection, or even catarrhal symptoms, running of the eyes or nose, sneezing, heaviness of the head or cough, and it is said when the disease occurs in this mild form, it does not prevent a second attack. This circumstance is mentioned by Dr. Willan, but Rayer declares that this kind of disease is not measles at all, but only Roseola. Dr. Willan, however, says that he saw two distinct cases of measles—indisputable measles—with any catarrh, and Dr. Elliotson remarks that, "he attended a family, in which several of the children had had the measles, with catarrh, and one of them had at the same time an eruption exactly like the others, but without catarrh, and which was pronounced by the medical attendant to be the measles. The rest of the family never had the disease again, but this one, a year afterwards had regular measles. From this fact occurring within my own knowledge, I cannot but think that Willan is right." All contagious forms of disease often occur in an imperfect form. The most intense contagious disease may be of unusual shortness, or of unusual mildness, or of both, and may even want some of its symptoms. Pustules of small pox sometimes occur without any indisposition. Doubtless measles is no exception to the general truth. When small pox has so appeared, Willan says, it may begin regularly, or be perfected on the eighth or ninth day from the first appearance of the pustules, *without indisposition*. In the same manner measles will sometimes appear, and proceed to perfection in a few days after eruption, *without catarrh*. It is well, therefore, for the physician to tell the parents, that the child may have an attack again, for a second attack of measles is possible in any case, but if they occur without catarrh, it is almost always certain that the patient will have them again. This species is called *Rubeola sine Catarrho*, (measles without catarrh.)

There is another form of this disease of a higher grade, called *Rubeola Nigra* (black measles.) This form is attended with a darkness of the skin. About the seventh or eighth day, the rash suddenly becomes yellow or livid. There is langor, quickness of the pulse, but no inconvenience arises, and the whole ceases in a week or two. It does not appear that there is any danger from the mere lividness of the patches in this disease. Many eruptions of the skin, when they subside, become of a dingy yellow color, without any danger whatever. There is merely a slight change of color, which is quite independent of the present indisposition. So it happens in measles. The dinginess is more intense than usual, the part becomes exceedingly brown and yellow, but this generally ceases after a week or two.

A third species of this disease is called *Rubeola Putrida*, (putrid measles.) It is the typhoid form of the complaint. Dr. Watson, who was physician to the Foundling Hospital in London, said that he saw this form of measles sixty years ago. Others think that he is mistaken, as he made no distinction between this and Scarletina.

Symptoms.—We have given the most prominent symptoms in the diagnosis. It may be well, however, to observe, that the eruption is usually preceded by a general uneasiness, chilliness and shivering, pain in the head in grown persons, but in children a heaviness and soreness in the throat, sickness and vomiting. There is a peculiar heaviness about the eyes. This is a peculiar characteristic, also swelling, inflammation and lacrymation, and an inability to bear the light without pain ; there is also a discharge of serous mucus from the nostrils, which produces sneezing. The heat and other febrile symptoms, increase very rapidly. There is also a frequent and dry cough. There is often great oppression and retching and vomiting, violent pains in the loins, and sometimes a looseness, and at other times there is profuse sweating ; the tongue is foul and white, thirst great, and in general the fever runs much higher than in many cases of small pox. The eruptions appear about the fourth or the fifth day, and sometimes at the close of the third day. On the third or fourth day from their appearance, the redness diminishes, the spots or very small papulae dry up, the cuticle peels off, and is replaced by a new one.

We have observed above that the symptoms of internal disorder do not go off on the appearance of the eruption as in small pox, except it be the vomiting ; the cough and headache continue, with the weakness and soreness of the eyes, and a considerable degree of fever. On the ninth or eleventh day, no trace of redness is to be found and the skin assumes its wonted appearance.

In the more alarming cases, spasms of the limbs, lethargy, delirium, or what more frequently happens, subsultus tendinum supervenes. This last symptom so frequently attends the eruptive fever of measles, that by some authors it is regarded as one of its diagnostics.

In measles as in other febrile forms of disease, the symptoms generally suffer some remission towards morning, returning however towards evening with increased severity.

In the third variety, mentioned above, *Rubeola putrida*, we often have hemorrhages from different parts of the body, so in *rubeola nigra*. The pulse becomes frequent, feeble and perhaps irregular, universal dibility ensues, and unless the most energetic means are used, the patient dies.

The longer the premonitory symptoms and the general indisposition occur before the appearance of the eruption, and the more severe they are, the more severe, generally speaking, will be the disease itself. The affection, too, is usually more severe in the cold

than in the *warm* months. Sometimes, in the severe form of the disease, there are, about the fourth day, small dark patches in the mouth, on the hard and soft palate, upon the tonsils and upon the uvula, the mucus membrane being affected as well as the skin.

When the affection first appears, there are only little red dots nearly circular, which are scarcely perceptible, and rather less than the spots of flea bites. They become more and more numerous, however, and coalesce into patches. All the exanthemata begin and extend in the same way. The patches which are formed in this disease, are of an irregular figure and frequently assume a semi-circular or crescentric form. This is characteristic of the disease, and is worthy of notice, and in the midst of these patches there are circular spots, and that around the patches, are spaces of the natural color. This disease is most severe upon the face. The skin of the face is finer and more abundant in red vessels, than that of any other part, and there it is that the effects of the inflammation are the most severe. The skin appears to be rough, so that by passing the finger along it a little roughness is observed, or rather a little inequality.

Although this disease is characterized by patches, yet the inflammation may be so intense as to cause the face to swell and the eyes to be closed ; nay, the symptoms may be so severe as to cause little collections of water, the size of millet seeds, which are called milliary vesicles, and sometimes there are papulæ on the hands, wrists and fingers, elevations of the cuticle, having a distinct roughness in the midst of the patches ; so that, while the patches give to the face a sensation of being elevated above the surrounding skin, in the midst of these there will be another roughness, arising from the papulæ.

There is sometimes a metastasis of this disease to the lungs, the testicles of the male, and the mammae of the female, and we have reason to believe that the ovaries may be affected ; and that it causes much suffering in after life by producing a derangement in the catamenial discharges.

Prognosis.—During the early stage of this disease, the prognosis is always favorable ; but a mild attack of the proper symptoms is often suddenly converted into a most dangerous disease ; especially is this the case where poisonous remedies are used and drastic purges recommended. It should be recollect that the eruption, or the mere disease, rarely puts the patient's life in hazard, as we so often observe in scarletina, in which the vital powers are so alarmingly depressed by the action of the poison ; but in measles, the internal inflammation, particularly of the lungs, which frequently supervenes, is the chief source of danger. It is very generally admitted, that measles are more severe, and attended with more danger, in adults than in children. The character of the prevailing epidemic and the peculiar type of continued fever of the same period,

should be carefully weighed in forming the prognosis, as well as in determining the treatment of measles. The season of the year has more important influence on the issue, than in scarletina or variola. When measles quickly succeed to other infantile disorders, as pertussis or remittent fever, the danger to be apprehended is greatly increased. The same may be said, when it attacks children who are predisposed to affections of the brain or to scrofula.

The following are circumstances which denote danger : unusual violence of the eruptive fever, especially if attended with spasmodic twitches or convulsions ; the eruptions appearing late and of a dark, livid color ; the supervention of thoracic or abdominal inflammation ; severe headache, with nocturnal delirium ; retrocession of the rash ; extreme dyspnœa, coming on late in the disease, with a dusky flush on the cheeks, and livid lips ; the accession of typhoid symptoms, the appearance of petechiae, or profuse hemorrhages from the mucus surfaces, the skin hot and parched.

A favorable prognosis may be pronounced when the eruption appears at the usual time and proceeds regularly over the whole body and limbs ; by the mildness of the bronchial affection ; by the appearance of a *moderate* diarrhoea ; by the softness of the pulse ; by the uniformly moist and warm state of the skin ; by the return of sound and refreshing sleep ; a free and copious expectoration ; an early and free desquamation.

Treatment.—In ordinary cases of rubeola but little treatment is required, while in other cases the most energetic means are necessary to save the patient. In mild attacks, but little more need be done than to take freely of some warm diluent drinks, and avoid exposure to cold. Particular regard should be paid to the state of the bowels, which ought to be kept open by enemas, and if necessary, by some mild aperient.

If there is a manifest aggravation of the symptoms about the time the eruption should appear, frequent doses of the diaphoretic tea, or a tea made of equal parts of saffron and Virginia snakeroot, (*crocus sat.* and *Serpentaria*,) must be administered, at the same time applying warm stones or bricks to the feet, to induce a determination to the surface, and bring out the eruption. If this course does not produce the desired effect, within a short time and there is great pain, restlessness, and difficulty of breathing, it is best to administer a few doses of the compound tincture of Lobelia, and the vapor bath, either of which will rarely fail of bringing out the eruption and mitigating the worst symptoms.

If, however, the violent symptoms still continue unabated, although the eruption has made its appearance, it will be found expedient to give frequent doses of Capsicum in a strong tea of bayberry, and if the urgency of the symptoms seem to demand it, the emetic and vapor bath, with stimulating enemas, should be administered as often as the best judgment dictates. A *mild* purge may

be justified, if it is stimulating, and if the enemas do not seem to create sufficient evacuations. Discharges from the bowels are indicated, and are beneficial, unless they be so violent as to produce debility. As soon as a disposition to this effect is seen the discharges should be checked by the use of some of our astringents, and such means as we have recommended for diarrhoea in similar complaints.

To relieve the difficulty of breathing, the patient may inhale the steam of vinegar and water. Stimulating liniments applied to the throat and nauseating doses of lobelia are indicated. A soreness and rawness of the throat often occur from the severity of the cough, to relieve which slippery elm, or other mucilages, should be taken.

The use of the vapor bath occasionally, after the disappearance of the eruption, will be a good preventive of the sore eyes and other troublesome complaints, which are apt to follow the measles. It is rare, indeed, that a patient suffers from consumption, inflammation of the lungs, disease of the eyes, running of the ears, &c., after the treatment of our Botanic physicians ; but these forms of disease are quite common after the Old School treatment.

You must pay particular attention, in bad cases, to the temperature of the room ; let it be neither too warm nor too cold. This remark is applicable to the treatment of all exanthemathous forms of disease. The diet should be light, such as gruel, custards, sago, &c.

68 East Broadway, New York.

A VISION.

BY J. B. SPIERS, M. D.

WHILE traveling through the land of Reflection and Meditation, I beheld and saw many strange things. Among them my attention was particularly drawn to the peculiarity of the buildings and their inmates.

This country belonged, as I was informed, to a great king, known by the appellation of "King of Kings." He was represented as being an exceedingly wise king, and particularly kind to his subjects. So great, and wise, and kind was he, that there was no other found like him in all the wide regions of space. The buildings were constructed all in a similar manner after particular instructions from the king ; and what was rather uncommon with the buildings in general, every one was furnished with a full set of workmen, who received particular directions from the king in person, to keep the house in good repair. These workmen, when not interfered with,

were exceedingly faithful in the performance of their duty, strictly and faithfully obeying the instructions of the king. They were curiously connected with the building, so that they appeared, some how or other, to form a part of it, and were always engaged for the good of the building. Another remarkable appearance was, that some of them were never permitted to stop working, night or day, so long as the building lasted. In fact, the very existence of it depended upon their continual labors, and the moment they ceased to work it would fall.

The workmen were numerous, so much so, that it was never necessary for them to change places at all. They appeared exceedingly wise, and worked in perfect harmony with each other, each faithfully performing his own part. They could convey intelligence from one to the other with remarkable rapidity, which made it quite evident that they had a kind of Electric Telegraph established, from one to the other, throughout the entire building.

The occupants of the building had nothing to do in directing about its construction and particular shape. Yet when an occupant was placed in a building, it was for him to continue there as long as it lasted. He could not change his residence, but as soon as the building decayed, he had immediately to be transported into another country, which he knew little or nothing about. There was a universal dread about removing into that unknown country. The citizens appeared to have a great deal of love for their habitations, and clung to them as long as they possibly could keep them from falling by props and the various stratagems they used for that purpose.

The king in his wisdom decreed, that these buildings should be renewed every ten years or oftener ; and this should be done by the workmen which he had placed in each building, in so gradual a manner, that the occupants should not suffer on account of it, but should continue in the house all the time it was undergoing repairs, and should furnish the workmen with the proper materials for reconstructing the buildings. These workmen were always engaged in examining the house and removing the decaying parts, and putting new materials in their places. This was done in a gradual manner, as may be judged from the number of workmen and the length of time allowed them for rebuilding. The king had placed all over the country proper materials for rebuilding, and made it the duty of the occupant to furnish them in proper quantity to the workmen. The duration of the building depended very much upon the faithful performance of this duty, in furnishing just enough of the materials and no more, and that of the right quantity, to keep the house in good repair.

The workman in by far the largest number of houses were continually complaining of difficulty. Some were entirely disabled from doing good work, and the consequence was that the buildings were in a very shattered condition. Some of the workmen would make long

and loud lamentations. Upon careful examination and inquiry, it was ascertained that nearly every inhabitant was making some complaint. This indeed seemed strange, as these workmen were all considered quiet, faithful, and orderly laborers.

Investigation into the cause of so much complaint on the part of the workmen, showed that the fault was to be attributed to the owner of the house. This indeed appeared strange, as his happiness and time of continuance in the house depended, to a great extent, on his conduct towards the workmen. The workmen did not complain against the owner, that he would not furnish materials for carrying on the necessary repairs, but the great cause of complaint was, that they were furnished with *too much* material. The workmen were nearly all placed inside the house, and they did not move from their places, so that the building materials had to be placed close around them, before they could use them ; thus they were compelled either to work up or throw away all the materials that they were furnished with. If they had too much they had to spend their force in getting rid of the over quantity, and therefore had not strength enough left to prepare the balance in a substantial manner. Though they had too much material, and often of an improper quality, yet they labored faithfully. They would work long and hard to get rid of the materials furnished in one day, in order to make room for more which had to come in the next day. And oftentimes when they had completely failed to use up the materials on hand, and were prostrated under the effects of hard labor, the owner of the house would throw more materials directly upon them, as if he intended to make them work without sleep. Their lamentations would be most pitifully sent forth, and the house would begin to quake and tremble, and show indications of an immediate downfall. The owner then might become alarmed for a short time and give a little time to rest, but he soon renewed his old habits. This seemed strange, as the happiness of the owner depended on the good work of the laborers. But he would, in defiance of all their complainings and bad work, continue to overtakethem. He was often warned of the folly of his course, and that it would certainly lead to the destruction of his tenement.

I saw building after building lying in ruins and destitute of inhabitants, and others almost ready to tumble down, and nearly all this ruin and devastation was produced, because it afforded the inhabitants a pleasure to overtakethem the workmen.

They would often call on foreign help to perform their labor, and to restore them to healthy vigor ; and sometimes relief would thus be obtained ; but generally it was but temporary, as the deluded inhabitant would soon bring a still greater prostration on the workmen by the eternal overtaking. I saw house after house fall, and supposed that the inhabitants of others would take warning ; but it seemed as if a kind of fatality presided over them, and many seemed

bent and determined to bring ruin on their own habitations—to render themselves miserable and unhappy—and all because it afforded them a kind of temporary pleasure to furnish their workmen with an overwhelming quantity, and often improper quality, of material. I asked the meaning of all this, and why these people pursued a course so contrary to their best interests, when it was contrary to the will of their good king, and in plain violation of his commands. I wondered, when they had thus destroyed their king's houses, if he would consider such unthankful subjects worthy of a better habitation than those they had brought about the destruction of, merely for their temporary gratification and in violation of his plain commands. And while I was thus wondering and reflecting, the vision ended.

Mr. Editor, what can this vision mean? There must be some interpretation to so remarkable a vision. Will you, therefore, be so good as to give it an insertion in your paper, and ask some kind friend, who has some tact at interpretation of dreams, to be so good as to attempt a solution?

Petersburg, Va., May 18th, 1855.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEW YORK STATE BOTANIC SOCIETY.

THE twentieth annual meeting of the New York State Botanic Medical Society was held in the lecture room of the Metropolitan Medical College, June 12th and 13th, 1855.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Dr. J. Goodridge.

The minutes of previous meeting read, and on motion corrected and approved.

The Constitution was also read, and the following gentlemen signed their names and became members, viz.,

E. Sanford Plumb, M. D., Otisville, Orange Co., N. Y.; Edwin Hunter, M. D., New York City; Reuben Owen, New York City; George Brunswick Higginbotham, M. D., New York City.

On motion, ordered that committees report in writing.

The Chair appointed Drs. Doolittle, Stone, Hunter, and Comings to nominate officers for the ensuing year.

Adjourned to two o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Committee on nominations made their report, which was accepted, and on being ballotted for separately, were elected, as follows:

For President, E. J. Mattocks, M. D.; for Vice President, I. J. Sperry, M. D.; for Recording Secretary, H. M. Sweet, M. D.; for

Corresponding Secretary, I. M. Comings, M. D.; for Treasurer, S. B. Vail; for Board of Censors, Drs. Comings, Stone, Friend, Wilcox, and Johnston.

On motion, the appointment of Trustees was laid upon the table. The President elect was then inducted into the Chair.

The Committee appointed at our last meeting presented the following report:

Your Committee, appointed at the last annual meeting of this Society, to prepare proper business for the present occasion, would respectfully recommend,

1st, That a Committee be appointed to report on Journals advocating Medical Reform.

2nd, A Committee on the rise, progress, and present state of Medical Reform.

3rd, A Committee of three, to petition the Common Council of this city for the privilege of introducing the Botanic Practice into the Hospitals and Public Institutions of this city.

4th, A Committee on Medical Colleges established on the principle of sanative medication.

5th, We would also recommend the propriety of the Metropolitan Medical College holding a fall and winter session.

We would also report that Professors Friend, Wilcox, and Comings have been engaged to deliver lectures to the Society, on the present occasion.

E. J. MATTOCKS,
H. M. SWEET.

The report was accepted, and committees appointed, as follows:

On Medical Journals; Profs. Comings and Friend.

On the state of Medical Reform; Drs. Jones, Stone, Johnston, Doolittle and Sperry.

On Petitioning the Common Council; Mattocks, Comings and Lincoln, and on motion, Doolittle and Sweet were added.

On Colleges; Friend, Comings, Tuthill, Stone and Goodridge.

The recommendation to the College to hold a fall and winter Session was adopted—the selection of lecturers accepted.

Prof. Comings laid the claims of the Journal of Medical Reform before the Society, and urged the necessity of sustaining the same, when several came forward and subscribed liberally for that purpose.

Adjourned for business the next day.

In the evening Professors Friend and Comings gave public lectures to a very large and respectable audience which was listened to with marked attention, and at the close elicited universal applause.

Wednesday 13th. Called to order by the President. The Committees, who had concluded their labors, reported as follows:

1st, Committee on Journals;

“We find there are published in the United States, the old Re-

corder, published by Professor Curtis, which still adheres closely to our principles, and advocates the doctrines of sanative medication in the most eloquent manner. It is now under the superintendance of Prof. Cook, and with Prof. Curtis's aid still maintains its hold upon our confidence.

"The Southern Botanic Medical Reformer is also an able collaborer with us in the advocacy of Medical Reform. The Middle States Medical Reformer, under the editorial care of Drs. Prettyman and John, also represents our peculiar views and has our sanction.

"These Journals, with our own, are the only ones we know as being the advocates of the peculiar views advocated by the reformers of New York. The Memphis Medical Reformer has not reached us for the year past, and we presume it has ceased; while it was published it was on the side of true Medical Reform.

There are several other Journals, published by the Eclectics, which are more or less reformatory, and have our sanction and approbation so far as they advocate the "no poison" doctrine, which we claim as essential to the true medical reformer.

"We are pleased to feel at this time that these several Journals are doing great good, and although most of them are yet a tax upon the publishers and editors, still we hope our friends will make more exertions to increase their list of subscribers, and thus relieve their editors from the onerous burden imposed on them. We would recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the members of this Society will individually exert themselves to increase the paying subscribers to our Journal of Medical Reform, published in the city of New York by Professor I. M. Comings."

The Committee on Medical Colleges offered the following resolutions;

"Resolved, That the increasing demand of the community for well educated practitioners of the Reformed Medical Practice, is a sufficient guarantee of the steady advance of our principles, and of the necessity of meeting that demand by urging and encouraging young men thoroughly to prepare themselves, by a thorough medical training, for the duties of the profession.

"Resolved, That it is the duty of every member of this Society, and of the Reformed Medical Profession generally, to give to our Medical Schools such aid and encouragement as they are able to bestow, by urging their students to avail themselves of the instruction given in those schools, and by taking a personal interest in their welfare, success and permanency."

The report and resolutions were accepted, and after considerable discussion, adopted. The Committee on the rise, progress and present state of Medical Reform were, on motion, directed to report through the columns of the Journal of Medical Reform.

Drs. Fearn and Rivenburgh offered the following, which was adopted :

"*Resolved*, That in the opinion of this society the Trustees of the Metropolitan Medical College in admitting female students to their College, merit and hereby receive the thanks of this society."

On motion, Dr. Johnston was appointed to give a lecture, at our next meeting, on Syphilis.

Dr. I. J. Sperry also appointed to lecture on Scarlatina, and Dr. Tuthill on hepatic diseases.

On motion adjourned to meet at the same place on the second Tuesday in June, 1856.

Members present at this meeting : I. M. Comings, Z. Goodridge, I. J. Sperry, L. D. Stone, A. Doolittle, J. D. Friend, S. Wilcox, C. V. Rivenburgh, E. Hunter, W. Jones, E. J. Mattocks, S. Tuthill, J. Law, T. S. Sperry, E. S. Plumb, H. Fearn, J. H. Johnston, R. Owen, H. M. Sweet, G. B. Higginsbotham.

NATIONAL ECLECTIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The Sixth Annual Meeting of the above Association was held at the Stuyvesant Institute, Broadway, at 10 1-2 o'clock, June 5th, 1855.

Prof. Burnham of Worcester, Mass., President of the Association, took the chair and declared the meeting organized.

In the absence of the Secretary Dr. Johns, one of the Vice-Presidents was elected Secretary *pro tem.*

The President said that hitherto the subscriptions of the members had been nearly expended in the expenses of the annual meetings and in the publication of reports. A small amount however remained in the hands of the Treasurer.

A Committee to nominate officers for the Convention was then chosen, and while this Committee was out, Dr. Beach made some remarks concerning his travels in Europe. This Committee consisted of Dr. Kelly of Mass., Dr. Burr of Conn., Dr. Mattocks of New York City, Dr. Crandell of Pa., Dr. Wilcox of Vt., Dr. Stotisbury of Georgia, Dr. Morrow of Tenn., Dr. Van Doren and Dr. Smith of New York city, who nominated the following officers, who were subsequently elected :

President—Wooster Beach, New York City.

Vice-Presidents—Silas Wilcox, M. D., Bennington, Vt., and J. W. Johnson, M. D., Hartford, Conn.

Recording Secretary—C. Johns, M. D., New York City.

Corresponding Secretaries—H. M. Sweet, M. D., and F. H. Kelly Worcester, Mass.

Treasurer—W. H. H. Crandall, M. D., Pa.

After some remarks by Dr. Burnham, who vacated the Chair to Dr. Beach, a committee on Business was elected, and at 12½ o'clock the Convention adjourned until three o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 3 o'clock the Chair was again taken by President Wooster Beach, M. D., when Dr. J. W. Johnson, from the Committee on Business reported a recommendation of the appointment of committees, which were subsequently elected, as follows :

Committee on Communications.—Drs. Comings and Kelly.

Committee on Resolutions.—Drs. Johnson, Friend and Hollenback.

Committee on Finance.—Drs. Burr, Sweet and Frisby.

Committee on Publications.—Drs. Reuben, Kelly and Comings.

Committee on Medical Institutions.—Drs. Hollenback, Archer, Johns and Friend.

Committee on the State and Prospects of Medicine.—Drs. Van Doren, Burr, Burnham, Hollenback, Stotesbury, Morrow, Crandall, Hudgins, Simons, Murphy, Comings and F. Wilcox.

Prof. Comings made some suggestions on the propriety of adopting a platform of principles, and after some debate by Drs. Kelly, Comings, Reuben, and others, the following resolutions were adopted :

Whereas, in the opinion of this Convention, it is of vital importance to the cause and progress of Medical Reform, that a spirit of harmony and a concert of action be encouraged, in order to the furtherance of reform principles of medical practice ; therefore,

Resolved, That we extend the right hand of fellowship to all who base their practice upon the following principles :

First, That in the administration of remedial agents we should employ only those, the therapeutical action of which, is physiological and not pathological.

Secondly, That disease is not vital action, but that condition of a part which disqualifies it for the performance of its functions in a normal manner.

At 6 o'clock the Convention adjourned to 7 3-4 P. M.

The evening session was occupied by Dr. Van Doran, who described a case of Uterine Polypus and exhibited a specimen. Dr. Firth also related a case of uterine disease which he had cured. Prof. Burnham spoke on the progress of Medical Reform in Massachusetts, and Prof. Hollenback of the prospects in New Jersey, and Philadelphia. Dr. Stotesbury spoke of the same in Georgia. Dr. Somers of Delaware, also made appropriate remarks.

On motion of Dr. H. Firth, a committee on *Concentrated Remedies*, or the process of extracting from herbs their separate essences for medicinal purposes, was agreed upon.

Prof. Burnham refused to be a member of the proposed Commit-

tee, because (he said) he used but little medicine. He thought a little water and some bread and milk far better than most of the medicines used. (Cheers.)

Prof. Rueben declined to serve on the Committee for a similar reason. He fully approved of doing with but little medicine and simple diet.

After some discussion the Committee on Concentrated Remedies was appointed, as follows : Drs. Firth, Keith, Johnson, Smith, Reuben and Stotesbury.

At 10 3-4 o'clock the Convention adjourned till 9 o'clock next morning.

Second Day at 9 o'clock.

The President (Dr. Beach) took the chair, and after some appropriate remarks, referred to the question of concentrated remedies. He recommended that remedies should be brought into as portable a bulk as possible without injuring the medicinal properties thereof. He called on the committees for reports.

Dr. Kelly from the Committee on Communications, read a letter from Dr. J. S. Prettyman of Delaware, together with a circular, describing the platform of principles adopted by the Reformed Medical practitioners of the Middle States' Society.

The report was accepted and ordered on file.

Prof. Burnham, from the Committee on Medical Institutions, reported the following preamble and resolutions :

Whereas, In view of the importance of a thorough system of medical instruction and the necessity of establishing and more effectually securing the public confidence in medical reforms, and of elevating the standard of medical science ; therefore,

Resolved, That this Convention adopt all laudable measures for the encouragement of those Medical Institutions in which are taught the principles of Medical Reform in a sanative course of treatment.

Resolved, That we recommend to all the friends of medical improvement to lend their aid and influence in favor of those Institutions only which are based upon those principles, and such as are well supplied with the means and facilities for affording a complete and thorough course of instruction in all the departments of medical science.

Resolved, That in view of the great and increasing demand for physicians of the reformed school throughout the country, it is the duty of every practitioner to encourage students in medicine and to hold out inducements to well-educated young men to engage in the study of medicine.

Resolved, That we recommend to the Trustees of the several Medical Colleges to admit to the general course of lectures such females as may desire to avail themselves of the advantages of a thorough medical education, or to provide such private instruction

not connected with the regular course as may be deemed best adapted to secure this end.

A discussion arose on the propriety of allowing females to become Students of Medicine as embodied in the last resolution.

Professors Burnham, Comings, Hallenback and Reuben, and Drs. Burr, Firth, Johnston, Kelly and others spoke pro and con on the passage of the last resolution, when, after considerable debate and some unsuccessful attempts to amend the fourth resolution, the whole were adopted by a vote of twenty-one to four.

On motion of Dr. Burr,

Resolved, That we, as reformers, in the discovery of the vegetable productions of our country which are being daily added to our list of remedial agents and introduced into the practice of the Reform physicians of the present day, hail with joy any new addition thereto. But we also declare that the course pursued by some of the members and editors of Journals of the Allopathic school in endeavoring to secure the credit of many of our discoveries, especially in *concentrated remedies*, merits the just censure of an enlightened and honorable community : That while we are willing to allow to allopathic physicians the credit of their discoveries, we are unwilling to relinquish any that justly belongs to ourselves.

An animated discussion arose on the subject of concentrated remedies, &c.

Dr. Keith stated that he would afford the Committee, on that subject, every facility in investigating the remedies prepared by him and give them every information as to the process of manufacture, proportions employed, &c., as he courted investigation of their qualities.

Prof. Friend made some remarks commendatory of the fair and impartial manner in which the proceedings of this Convention had been reported by the *Tribune*, while other papers had not noticed the meeting.

Dr. Stotesbury of Georgia explained that in his remarks made yesterday he referred to the "Southern Botanico-Medical College" which had obtained a charter and aid from the State Legislature. The word "School" in the report in *The Tribune* being commenced with a capital letter made it appear that he had referred to an Institution called the "Eclectic School," whereas the word "school" was only used by him in a *general* sense. With this slight correction he regarded the report in *The Tribune* as a most complete description of their proceedings.

Several speeches were made complimentary of the report in *The Tribune*, and

On motion of Dr. Kelly of Worcester, Mass., it was

Resolved, That we recommend the Committee on Concentrated Remedies to inquire into the facts and insist on the credit due the Reformed School of Practitioners as having discovered and intro-

duced by far the greater number of the actual principles of vegetable medicines now in this country.

On motion of Dr. J. H. Simms of Delaware it was

Resolved, That all Reform or Eclectic physicians throughout the United States be requested to keep a correct account of all the patients they attend to, stating the number cured, the number relieved and also the number deceased, to be reported at the next National Convention, either personally or by their representatives.

The Committee on the next Convention reported in favor of holding the next meeting in New York City, which was agreed to.

After some further proceedings, at 2 o'clock the Convention adjourned until the first Tuesday in June, 1856.

The proceedings of the Convention were conducted throughout the four sessions with much good feeling and terminated in a friendly and creditable manner.

REPORT OF A CASE OF DROPSY.

BY H. L. CROSBY, M. D.

MR. EDITOR :—The following case has attracted some attention in the community, and it may not be altogether unworthy of public notice.

Edward Butler, aged 17, a jeweller by trade, in consequence of his sedentary habits and some hepatic derangement, was attacked with general dropsy. His abdomen and lower extremities were very much swollen, in fact his whole body was diseased. Hydrothorax was evident, and from the difficulties attending the motion of the heart and the circulation, it was the opinion of the Old School Physician who attended him nine months, that his dropsy was also complicated with Hydrocarditis.

Dr. Dillen treated him six months, during which time he rather grew worse. After this round of calomelizing, he was sent to the St. Vincent's Hospital in this city, and there treated for five weeks with no benefit, and was dismissed as incurable in the last stages of this disease.

On the first of May 1854 we were called to prescribe for this patient, and we thought it almost a desperate case. We commenced with emetics and the medicated vapor baths which we continued for about two weeks every other day. We then commenced with our alterative compound of Blue Flag and diuretics with purgatives of mandrake, and our anti-mercurial preparation, which reduced the swelling and the dropsical collection, and in five weeks he was cured ; but from his long treatment by the Allopaths and the inroads made upon his constitution by the disease, he was left in a very debilitated state ; but by the constant use of the Cayenne

pill with simple tonics, by the last of June, something less than eight weeks, he was able to go to his business, and has since that time enjoyed the best of health.

We have reported this case simply to encourage our Reformed Practitioners in the treatment of desperate cases, as they are termed. Our remedies will succeed in many cases that are incurable in Allopathic hands.

If this patient had died we might have obtained the reputation of killing him; but as it was the Old School doctor said he could have cured him if he had had time to attend to him.

433 Pearl Street, New York.

[We shall be pleased to hear from Dr. Crosby often, for his reputation as a skilful physician is quite extensive in the city.—*Ed.*]

ENQUIRY.

AT the convention of Medical Reformers held in this city last month, it was stated by Prof. Burnham of the Worcester Medical Institution, that "we all know inflammation must be treated differently in different sections of the U. S." Now, will you let me beg of the Professor to explain to numerous members of that convention, in what this *difference* consists, and to give the Reformed and Eclectic profession the benefit of this information on the subject of Inflammation?

REFORMER.

[We freely insert the above enquiry from Reformer, and will be pleased to allow the Professor all the space in our columns he may wish to give us the *new views* he may have on this subject. Medical Reform may have made more rapid strides in New England than in this section and farther south.—*Ed.*]

Sedentary and weak-chested folks should breathe long and deep in the cold bracing air of winter mornings. A few cubic feet of cold air taken with a relish will be worth any amount of the accustomed opiates and astringents for quickening and healing the vital organs.

Dr. Winslow Lewis, a distinguished physician and Surgeon in Boston, has just been elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts.

Editorial.

NATIONAL ECLECTIC MEDICAL CONVENTION.

THE proceedings of this body we have condensed from the report as published in the *Tribune*. It was really misnamed, for instead of being Eclectic, it was a Reformed Medical Convention—the great body of those who appropriate this name to themselves not being represented at all in the Convention. It seemed somewhat strange to us, that the great West should not have been represented in this *National* body,

The Baltimore Reformed Medical Platform was adopted, and, so far as we could see, nothing but the *name* would lead one to suppose that there was any sympathy with the Western Physicians of that cognomen.

From the views and feelings expressed by the gentlemen in attendance on this meeting, we perceive that the Western Eclectics and those called by that name in New York and New England, are entirely a different sect.

We were a little surprised to hear Prof. Burnham, on giving up the Chair to Dr. Beach, call him the "father of Eclecticism," since the Eclectics disown him, and hardly pay him decent respect, and Dr. Beach himself is opposed to the term Eclectic, and refuses to be called by that title, preferring that of Medical Reformer, and retaining it in his books. Dr. Beach followed Dr. Thomson, who is really the father of Medical Reform. Both of them have acted well their part, and deserve much of us, who have entered into their labors. We despise, from the bottom of our soul, every effort to rob either Thomson or Beach of the credit due them for the discoveries and improvements which they have made. Thomson set the ball in motion, Beach has kept it rolling, and we are all aiding in its revolution, as well as increasing its size.

Our professional engagements were such as to prevent our constant attendance on the meeting, but from what we saw, it is evident there is but little union between the West and East. The old side, steady, firm and consistent Medical Reformers are after all not only the most numerous, but far the most united and efficient. We have been called ultra and ignorant, but after all, who has built up and sustained the Reformed Colleges in the United States? Who has carried on the controversy with Allopathy, and borne the brunt of the battle in support of sanative medication? Speak out, ye Eclectics, and answer these queries. Where is there any two of you that agree either in principles or practice? What bond of union is there by which you are bound together? Is not the whole sum and substance of modern Eclecticism made up of the scraps and fag ends of every

thing—no foundation of principles which have their base in Physiology and the natural laws of life.

It is vain for our Eclectic friends to try to build up a system or practice, unless they have some fundamental principles, some platform on which to base their superstructure. Hence, when we saw this Convention composed of a large majority of true Reformers, we felt that although it was called an *Omnibus* Convention, yet the members would have no difficulty in forming some bond of union.

We trust our friends will cultivate a spirit of conciliation, see who are the *real* friends of Medical Reform, learn the importance of having established medical principles, which will never lead them astray, and of adhering closely to them in all the vicissitudes of professional life.

MORE ALLOPATHIC ARROGANCE.

It does seem as though Allopathy wished to monopolize all knowledge, or that she lays claim to all that is known in the healing art, and thinks she is really entitled to all rank, dignity, and emolument.

Notwithstanding the State of Massachusetts has richly endowed two Medical Colleges of the Old School, yet when the Worcester Institution petitions for only a fourth part of the sums granted to other Colleges, and when there was a prospect that this might be granted, hear the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal discourse as follows :

" It is obvious that the Senate acted without the slightest regard to the interests of the community in its decision on the first question (granting aid to the Massachusetts Homœopathic Hospital). It is clear that the Senate was ignorant of the merits of the case, since in favoring the interests of the so called 'botanic practice' of medicine, it impeded the progress of sound Medical improvement as much as it promoted it in refusing aid to homœopathy. We repeat what we have before urged, that medical improvement can never be furthered by devotion to an exclusive system of practice, to the rejection of the accumulated experience of ages, whether such system purport to be what it is, or whether it disguise its true character under the assumed name of 'Eclecticism.' "

Now is not this consummate arrogance ? One half the people of the Old Bay State to day, are opposed to Allopathy, and employ physicians of some of the Reformed Schools ; and these physicians have all the "accumulated experience of ages," yet, forsooth, because they have honesty enough to renounce the errors and false doctrines which the past ages have handed down to us, and are not so bigoted as to reject the improvements of modern

times, you will brand us as ignorant ! For shame of you, ye old fogies. The people are going to give us an equal chance with you, and when this is done we will see how long you will lay claim to all that is of value in the healing art. Give us but half a chance with you, and we will expose your rottenness.

ENDOWMENT OF WORCESTER INSTITUTION—BILL LOST.

WE had great hopes that we should have the pleasure of announcing in this number, that Massachusetts had been true to herself, and endowed this College ; but by some mysterious change in the minds of a few men, the bill was lost. The Allopathic doctors in Boston can tell how this sudden change was made ; but, gentlemen, your end is nigh. Medical Reform will soon overwhelm you. Stand firm under.

AN ECLECTIC PROFESSOR'S VIEWS OF CALOMEL.

IN the May number of the American Lancet, we notice an article from Professor C. H. Cleaveland of the Cincinnati Eclectic College, and in this article on the "Hydrochlorate of America," we notice the following :

"I am of the opinion that, as a glandular stimulant, the Podophyllin alone or combined with Bloodroot, will be found equal to Calomel, and that as a chologogue cathartic it is superior, more certain, and more safe than the mercurials ; but that it is not a *solvent*, and therefore cannot be relied on to supply the place of the mercurials in those cases where the solvent property is demanded, as in inflammatory adhesions of the tissues of the eye, or in pleural, or in other adhesions of serous surfaces. Neither do I think it will remove deposits of inflammatory exudations following syphilitic infections, as calomel will."

Here, then, is Eclecticism. Are those that call themselves Eclectics in New York and New England ready to sanction or acquiesce in the views here advanced ? This is Medical Reform with a vengeance. It is only a corroboration of the remark we have often made that Eclecticism is only *modified* Allopathy. It is not *Reform*, and it is only designed to remove some of the more objectional features of the Old Practice. It has no physiological principles for a foundation, but its theory and its views are all Allopathic, hence we cannot expect it to *reform* but only to *modify*. This will never do. Luther might just as well have attempted to *modify*

Catholicism, or our Fathers of '76 might just as well have tried their hand at modifying monarchy or despotism, instead of *revolutionizing* and *reforming* the great abuses of these antiquated systems.

We hope that our Reform friends in this state and New England, will see the folly of attempting to fraternize with such views and notions as emanate from the Eclectic Institute of Cincinnati. Why do you take the name even of those who advocate such half way views? They have no sympathy with us; will not attend our Conventions, even when we take their name and seek their alliance. Allopathy respects our consistency, and the true Medical Reformer to day stands on a proud eminence, far above the half-way, modifying, mistifying, time-serving Eclectic, who believes in Calomel and the lancet, and the doctrines of Inflammations as taught by the fogies of the past.

METROPOLITAN MEDICAL COLLEGE.

THE third annual session of this College closed on the 12th ult. The exercises of the occasion were interesting and the examination satisfactory to the Board of Trustees. There were but three regular graduates, viz.

NAME.	STATE.	SUBJECT OF THESIS.
DANFORTH WHITING,	Vermont,	Obstetrics.
ROBERT H. ORR,	Georgia,	Rubeola.
MISS CAROLINE E. RICHARDS,	Connecticut,	Female Physicians.

The following is the Catalogue of those who have attended during the Session. It is but justice, however, to say that of this number only eight were regular students.

Danforth Whiting, Vermont ; Robert H. Orr, Georgia ; Samuel A. Castle, Connecticut ; Mrs. L. A. Moore, New York ; Herbert Fearn, M. D., New York ; Jesse B. Spiers, M. D., Virginia ; J. H. Johnston, M. D., New York ; R. A. Reece, New York ; Miss Caroline E. Richards, Connecticut ; A. S. Thompson, New York ; John Dwyer, M. D., New York ; Peter Stotesbury, Georgia ; Dr. J. M. Haley, New Jersey ; J. J. De La Hay, Illinois ; R. H. Owen, New York.

If our Class was a small one, yet the Lectures were sustained, four each day. We had five professors with us a portion of the time, with three all the Session in the city, so that there was no suspension of the Lectures, or any interruption to the course.

The prospects of the Metropolitan were never brighter, and the friends are now sanguine of success. It will be seen by the Circular that we are to have a Fall Course of Lectures, to commence in October, and if we can

judge any thing from the promises of attendance next fall, we shall have a large Class.

There will also be a Spring Course as usual, so that those students who choose to continue their studies can do so during the spring and summer.

Our Class has enjoyed free access to the Hospitals and Clinics, and have left us well satisfied and pleased with the facilities furnished by our College.

A slight change was made in the Faculty, and a Lecturer on the Diseases of the Eye and Ear was added, which will be adding to the advantages heretofore enjoyed.

"DEFUNCT THOMSONISM."

In a well written and very able article on "Popular Medical Delusions," contained in the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal of May 31st, the editor closes the article as follows :

"Notwithstanding the unforgotten evils of nearly defunct Thomsonism, the drownings by injudiciously applied hydropathic measures, the hair-breath escapes from, and actual death, under the inactivity or deceit of Homœopathy, &c., we dare say that multitudes will annually sacrifice themselves to popular medical delusions."

Yes, they will, and they will fall ten fold more by the poisoning, depleting and calomelizing course pursued by the so called "Regulars." Did you never think, ye arrogant Allopaths, that your own ignorance and want of success is the cause of this wide spread humbuggery ? If you cured the people, they would not leave you ; but the "ignorant pretender" often beats you in curing disease, and Nature unaided and unhindered by Homœopathy causes the infinitesimal man to get the credit. Study Nature and assist her efforts, rather than hinder her, and you will not complain of the delusion of the people, of Homœopathy, or of nearly defunct Thomsonism.

We shall publish a portion of this excellent article in some future number.

FALL AND WINTER COURSE OF LECTURES.

At the last meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Metropolitan Medical College, it was voted to have a Winter Course of Lectures, commencing on the second Tuesday of October, thus giving those students who can attend

during the winter season an opportunity to do so, and to continue through the spring session if they choose. This arrangement has been thought advisable in order to accommodate all classes of our students, from all portions of the country, since the facilities which New York affords must necessarily draw patrons from various states. See Circular on another page.

A SUGGESTION TO THE REFORMED PHYSICIANS OF NEW YORK CITY.

THERE are some thirty Reformed Medical Physicians in the city of New York, besides many others who sympathize more or less with us. Now, what is the reason that we cannot form a Medical Club or Society, that shall meet at one stated place, or at the residences or offices of the members once a month or oftener, for the purpose of social conversation on medical subjects ? Let each member be called on in rotation to communicate any thing of interest that may have occurred in his practice, and let some one or two members be appointed to read a dissertation on some medical subject, which might afford matter for discussion.

In this way our profession may be elevated, and we should be able render much aid to each other. What say our brethren, shall we form such a society ?

RESOLUTIONS OF THE CLASS.

At a meeting of the students of the Metropolitan Medical College, on the 12th of June, 1855, Drs. Fearn, Whiting and Thomson were appointed to draft some resolutions expressive of the feelings of the Class. The following were reported and adopted :

Resolved, That we have been highly pleased with the advantages enjoyed by us in our attendance on the Lectures in the Metropolitan Medical College, and we would cheerfully recommend the Institution to the Reformed Medical Students in the United States.

Resolved, That the Faculty of the said College have fully demonstrated their ability to elucidate the true science of Medicine in its various branches, and for the courteous and gentlemanly conduct to us, we tender our warmest regards and best wishes for their success.

D. WHITING, *Chairman.*

H. FEARN, *Secretary.*

MERIDEN MOTORPATHIC WATER CURE.

ON another page of our Journal the reader will see the advertisement of the above Institution. We can recommend Professor Archer as a skilful and prudent physician ; and Dr. Tait, as one of our own graduates, we know to be well instructed in the healing art. The Water Cure, with harmless Botanic remedies, must become the popular practice of the intelligent community.

The Meriden Transcript speaks as follows of this Cure :

"This Institution under the charge of Drs. Archer & Tait, is now ready for patients, and we understand that several applications have already been made. It is pleasantly located in a pleasant portion of our town ; the rooms are large, well-furnished, and command a pleasant prospect, and the arrangements are admirable for the comfort and cure of patients. The bathing rooms, three in number, are furnished with every convenience and altogether the best we were ever in. A large gymnasium, furnished with all the modern improvements for exercise, together with a bowling-alley for ladies, are among its inducements for the invalid. Considering that the scenery, rides, and general appearance of Meriden are so attractive, we see no reason why the Meriden Water Cure will not be abundantly patronized."

LECTURES ON DISEASES OF THE EYE AND EAR.

IT will be seen by reference to the Circular of our College, that the services of C. B. Brainerd, M. D., have been secured as Lecturer on the diseases of the eye and ear. The peculiar affections of these organs have become almost a distinct branch of Medical Practice, like that of Dentistry, hence the propriety of having Lectures on this subject.

Professor Brainerd is a talented lecturer, and has gained an enviable reputation as an oculist. The Trustees have so arranged with Dr Brainerd that no extra expence will occur to the students by attendance on these lectures.

NATIONAL ECLECTIC MEDICAL CONVENTION.—Old Dr. Clapp is rather severe on our *barbarous* appearance, and we think him too personal, but as he is a *country* gentleman and not used to city fashions, we will excuse him, for his portraitures have some truth in them.

Prof. Buchanan of Cincinnati, in an article published in the Tribune of June 27th, disclaims all affiliation with this National Convention, and ignores its proceedings. Will not this satisfy our friends in this quarter ? Will they still adhere to the name Eclectic, when they are thus so unceremoniously kicked out of doors ? We heartily thank Prof. Buchanan for this timely notice of our Convention. We shall publish it in our next.

Correspondence.

THE NATIONAL ECLECTIC CONVENTION.

BY EPHRAIM CLAPP, M. D.

HAVING been present as a looker-on at the late National Convention in New York city, I propose, with your permission, to offer a few thoughts in reference to it.

I was somewhat surprised in finding there men between whom, so far as medical principles and practice are concerned, I had supposed there lay a gulf so wide that nothing short of a miracle could bring them harmoniously together. Here were Thomsonians and Physio-Medicals and Eclectics and Botanics and Electropaths, not of the rank and file merely, but "big guns" and leaders, sitting together "like a band of brothers," and if not actually smoking the "calumet of peace," with no outward show at least of the slashing antagonism that is witnessed in the Medical Journals of the different sects.

In the Chair sat Beach, the man of books and medals—the recipient of the favors of kings and their queen consorts ; the world-wide traveller ; the cotemporary of the now-honored Thomson—a man of some faults and many virtues, a little bewildered by the burden of his presidential duties, but full of zeal and projects for the good and welfare of the cause of Medical Reform. On his right sat or stood Burnham of Lowell—active, bustling and free of speech—once of the sect of Allopaths, now a Professor in the Worcester Eclectic—no, Botanic Medical College. Now on the rostrum, anon mingling with the brethren, is Johnson of Hartford—once a sharp-set follower of Thomson, revelling in the benefits of vapor baths, and exultant in the power and virtue of "courses" and Cayenne ; but now, I find, he writes himself down "Eclectic Physician and Surgeon." He, too, so I was informed, is a teacher in the Worcester School—fond of a joke and—a good dinner—a pleasant, companionable fellow, who wouldn't shed a tear, I reckon, if a real bond of union were formed between those of his present faith and the "friends he left behind him." When I first saw him, some five years ago, he was, I believe, President of the Thomsonian Medical Society of Connecticut ; but something turned up, one day, that soured his usually placid temper, and so he left.

Here, too, was Burr, another of the disciples and followers of Thomson who has divorced himself from his first love, and now keeps unspotted from the taint of Thomsonism. I have not the honor of his acquaintance, but was told that he was a student, in his younger days, in the office of one of the most successful practitioners of the Thomsonian School in Connecticut. He spoke often, but spoke too low.

In the back part of the hall sat Comings, formerly of the Worcester School, but now connected with the Metropolitan and Macon Colleges—that is to say, a gentleman informed me it was Prof. Comings, although, for the life of me, I could not have made him out, so completely is he changed in personal appearance since I met him two years ago. Then his face was as clean and glossy as the paper on which I write ; now, alas ! he looked like a whiskered Pandoor or a fierce Hussar. Alas ! thought I, that the price of a shave is so high, or razors so dear, that men moving in a civilized community are compelled to go unshaved, unshorn. Is this an age of Barber-ism, or is it not ? But, notwithstanding whiskers, moustaches, imperial and all that, Comings is a firm and well-tried friend and defender of the cause of Medical Reform, an excellent writer, an acceptable and thorough teacher. May his shadow never be less. In an uneasy and restless mood sat Friend, looking as if he were not at home, but apparently watching with great interest the action of the convention. He, too, is one of our most devoted advocates of sanative medication, and has never yet proved recreant to the doctrines promulgated by the founder of our System. His superior talents and education fit him for the highest station, and I was pleased to learn from a gentleman near me, that he occupies the Chair of Obstetrics, &c., in the Metropolitan Medical College. His voice was seldom heard in the convention, for his excessive modesty militates against his usefulness, but “when he *does* speak the house listens.”

Near the Platform, on the right of the President, sat Kelly, of the Worcester Journal—a man of fine physical proportions, and one of the leaders of the Botanico-Eclectic faith and practice in New England—a gentlemanly good-natured fellow, full of zeal for the honor and dignity of Reformed Medicine. In front sat Hollenback of the Philadelphia College—Physician and Politician—a man of grave demeanor, but really full of firm and generous impulses—ready to bury the hatchet forever, and unite in one fold all the brethren who believe and trust in sanative medication. Near by, I noticed Reuben, formerly of the Rochester Medical College—correct, precise and classical, with a development of “love of approbation” from full to large, well-spiced with a “smart dash” of a neighboring organ ; grave in aspect, fond of cold water, and other Hydropathic auxiliaries, with a vein of the humorous in his composition that *will* leak out, strive he never so much to be grave and ghostly.

Time would fail me to speak of Sweet, and Archer, Johnston, Firth, Morrow, Wilcox, Mattocks, Thomson, Simms and Johns of New York, and others who composed this seemingly incongruous assembly, deliberating, so far as a looker on could see, in harmony, and observing the characteristics of gentlemen in their bearing towards each other. It was a pleasant sight.

I was more than gratified when the Committee on resolutions reported

as a "platform" the very essence of that adopted by the Reformed in Baltimore at the Session in 1852. But gratification was succeeded by surprise and feelings of unmixed pleasure when those resolutions were adopted by the unanimous voice of the Convention. Surely a better day is dawning—a day when we may hope to witness the *united* forces of the Reformed Medical faith marching shoulder to shoulder under one banner, moved by the same impulses, and firmly resolved to go forward with unbroken ranks in the prosecution of the glorious cause in which their hearts and their energies are enlisted. I have for many a long and weary year fought in my poor way for the triumph of our principles and practice; and now when the "winter of life" is upon me, and I am daily admonished that my sands are almost run, I would rejoice with exceeding great joy, if I could see our prominent leaders extending to each other the olive branch of peace, and our ranks close up in one solid, compact body, that shall command the respect and admiration of the world, and secure for our cause a victory as complete as the most zealous friends could wish or pray for.

[The balance of the above excellent communication will be contained in the next number of the Journal.—*Ed.*]

METROPOLITAN MEDICAL COLLEGE, N. Y.

THE fourth Session of this College will commence on the third Tuesday of October, 1855, at the Hall of the College, No. 68 East Broadway, N. Y.

The following Faculty will lecture the next Session.

I. M. COMINGS, M. D., Anatomy and Surgery.

H. A. ARCHER, M. D., Theory and Practice.

J. D. FRIEND, M. D., Midwifery and Diseases of Women, &c.

T. S. SPERRY, M. D., Chemistry and Materia Medica.

H. S. LINCOLN, A. M., Medical Jurisprudence.

C. B. BRAINERD, M. D., Lecturer on Diseases of Eye and Ear.

This Institution has been in successful operation for three years. It is legally incorporated and duly authorized by the State of New York to confer Medical Degrees.

The students of this College have free access to the most extensive Anatomical Museum in the country, and to the largest Hospitals in the United States, where disease in all its forms and surgical operations of every description are witnessed.

The whole fees for tickets to Lectures,	\$70,00
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Matriculation and Museum,	5,00
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Students having attended two courses in other Colleges, but none in this,	10,00
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Good board can be obtained in the city from \$3,00 to \$4,50 per week, with all the comforts of good room, lights and fuel.

Students desiring further information, will address Prof. I. M. Comings, Dean of the Faculty, 68 East Broadway, or H. M. Sweet, M. D., Secretary of Board, No. 16 West 13th Street, New York.

THE
Journal of Medical Reform.
AUGUST, 1855.

Original Communications.

VALEDICTORY,

To the Class of 1855, Metropolitan Medical College, New York.

BY PROF. T. S. SPERRY.

GENTLEMEN :—Designated by my colleagues, it becomes my duty as well as pleasure, to address you at this time. It will be well, perhaps, in view of the particular stand-point we occupy, to contemplate for a moment the path over which we have so lately passed together, I hope, not without profit to us all.

It is not to be supposed, that the highway to knowledge is of the easiest and smoothest description, and that the traveller thereon will meet with no obstacles to impede his onward progress, ere he arrives at the goal he has fixed on as the end of his journey. It is only by pains-taking labor and fatiguing effort that these obstacles can be overcome or removed from the way. He who comes as a wooer of Science, must expect to find no willing bride. She yields her embraces to no impulsive, fitful, or vacillating lover. She ever repulses such, and is only to be won by steady, constant, and persevering effort. But the diligent, earnest searcher after the *true* in *Science*, and her sister *Art*, is most fully and amply rewarded, by the unsparing and lavish hand with which their favors are distributed to all who approach them, duly qualified by the divinity of Labor, and truthfulness of purpose.

The primeval curse, pronounced with such terrible effect and by such a terrible intelligence, on the parents of the Human Race, still clings in all its mastering significance to their descendants. Not merely physically, to the labor of the *hands* alone, does the curse obtain; but *all results*, all acquisitions, mental as well as otherwise,

are those of Labor, God-given, God inspired labor, and originating in man's perversion of God-given law. It is this which makes results, when fairly and truly earned—whether these results are the acquisition of new truths, or the slightest increase of true knowledge, or whether it be the causing of two blades of grass to grow where one grew previously—of so much more value to us, than those which have cost us no labor, or effort to obtain.

That your onward progress, in your desire to obtain knowledge, has been attended by difficulties and obstructions, which required strong labor, and sometimes the helping hand of those who had preceded you, and encountered and conquered those obstacles, is of course not to be wondered at, since this is the penalty attached undeviatingly to all acquisition, and without which no acquisition can be.

It is a mistake to suppose that in your studies hitherto, you have learned to be Physicians. A misappreciation of this fact, has sometimes spoiled men, who had in them the right stuff for the making of good and skilful practitioners. Because they had received their parchment, and with it their degree, they came to the conclusion, they were no longer students. Farewell to study—books were of no value, save to stock a library for show, and to delude confiding folk with the belief, that they were sometimes studied. With thin parchment framed and glazed, and hung within easy reach of the eye, books snugly stocked behind glass doors, they sat themselves down contented, and complacently repeated to themselves, "that their education was finished, and their profession learned." They were prepared, in their own estimation to bid death defiance. Ah! Gentlemen, this is a sad mistake; their education, so far as their profession was concerned, had but just commenced. Such a state of feeling is a perfect bar to the onward progress of a medical man. No one ever yet rose to eminence in the profession who nursed, in his self conceit, such thoughts as these. There may always be good hopes entertained of one, who has learned enough, and is wise enough, to be thoroughly aware of his own ignorance. It was the remark of an old experienced physician, and one too justly celebrated for his skill in the treatment and cure of disease, and for the erudition and judgment, which was the accompaniment of this skill, that, the most learned and scientific physicians, those having a *vast experience* in *all* branches of medicine—"full of wise saws and modern instances," were—medical students who had just received their degree!

The truth is, you have not learned to be physicians; but simply, *how to become so*. Your real study, your practical acquisition of that knowledge which is to be of value to yourself, and those who are, or may be the recipients of your skill, is to commence from this time. You have but learned hitherto, the names and the temper of your tools; you are now to commence their practical application,

and by applying the right tools at the right time and for the right purpose, you will gradually become accustomed to wield them with dexterity and skill.

In the walks of Science or of Art, no man can be idle, here is no place nor room for drones. Either work—strive to do something which shall make the world either wiser or better, or step aside, and give a place to those who are ready and willing to do so. In the profession you have chosen, more than in any other, it is requisite, and not only requisite, but imperatively necessary that you should always be students—that is, if you wish to keep pace with the progress and improvements of that profession. As I have had occasion to remark to you previously to this time, I do not mean by your continuing always to be students, that you should merely study books. There are very many sources other than this, from whence to gain true and increasing knowledge. Pope writes, “the study of mankind is man.” But from whatever source you seek to gain knowledge, let there be strong and earnest thought, such thought as is fitted to grapple with, and resolve the life-problems which you will find everywhere beset you. Indulge me while I quote a beautiful passage from the Poem “*Festus*,” by Philip James Bailey.

Festus.—“True ! all men are students. How to live
 And how to die, forms the great lesson still.
 I know what study is : it is to toil
 Hard through the hours of the sad midnight watch,
 At tasks which seem a systematic curse,
 And course of bootless penance. Night by night,
 To trace one’s thoughts as if on iron leaves :
 And sorrowful, as tho’ it were the mode
 And date of Death we wrote on our own tombs ;—
 Wring a slight sleep out of the couch, and see
 The self same moon which lit us to our rest,—
 Her place scarce changed perceptibly in Heav’n—
 Now light us to renewal of our toils.
 This to the young mind, wild and all in leaf,
 Which knowledge grafting, paineth. Fruit soon comes
 And more than all our troubles, pays our powers :
 So that we joy to have endured so much :
 That for nothing have we slaved, and slain
 Ourselves almost.

It is to think,
 While thought is standing thick upon the brain,
 As dew upon the brow—for thought is brain sweat—
 And gathering thick and dark, like storms in summer,
 Until convulsed, condensed, in lightning short,
 It plays upon the Heaven of the mind—
 Opens the hemisphered abysses here
 And we become revealers to ourselves.”

I say to you, Gentlemen, nothing can be accomplished without strong and earnest thought.

You will do well, when you shall step forth to take your place in the profession of which you have now become members—when you shall commence each your individual struggle in the life-battle, to win for yourselves wealth and honors, to keep steadily in view the mission with which you are intrusted. Were it not that I might seem irreverent, or at all events to be comparing small things with large, I might say, your mission, to some extent, resembles that of a man who, eighteen hundred years ago, went about doing good ;—“healing the sick and comforting the afflicted.” Let no love of self lead you to be false to this mission, false to yourself, or false to the great and true principles—as we believe them to be—which you profess to have acquired here. The man who enters the profession, not because of a true love for the science and practice of Medicine, but because he believes he can make more money than by any other profession or calling ; or from the fact that he is too indolent to labor at a trade, and thinks it an easy method (!) of gaining a living, ought to be hooted from the ranks, and denied all fellowship with the honest and true-hearted. In the language of another, there ought to be

“A whip in every honest hand, to lash
The rascals naked through the world !”

Such persons never seek knowledge for love of such glorious acquisition, and only as much as is absolutely necessary to the consummation of the several ends they have in view. They are like the noisome parasites, clinging to some noble oak, and drawing from it the nourishment which sustains their unsightly life ; while they detract from the grandeur, beauty, and simplicity of the stately object, which they serve to disguise by the stealthy advancement of their poisonous creepers. These and such as these, have no possible idea of the true mission of the Physician. Be it yours not to forget it. The only end and aim you should propose to yourself, is the acquirement of the knowledge of those processes, which will enable you to cure disease, with the most speed and the greatest certainty of success.

It will be pleasing when in memory you shall retrace time past, until it rests upon this epoch—for to you it is an epoch, and one too of considerable magnitude—to reflect on the many hours spent here, not only in the work of improvement, and the attainment of what we believe to be true knowledge ; but in the cultivation of those social feelings and graces, and in the exercise of the amenities of life, and courteousness of demeanour, the want of which is so quickly marked in a physician, and noted to his discredit.

Always be courteous, Gentlemen, and especially towards an op-

ponent ; for opponents to your practice, and your mode of thinking, you will always meet. Always pay due deference to the sincere opinions of others, so shall you meet a due respect for your own.

Avoid eccentricity ; for however much the world may love to repeat the doings of this class of people, they really regard them with no respect. Eccentricity is never the mark of talent, although as an exception to the rule, it sometimes accompanies it, denoting as our friend Fowler would say perhaps, a "soft spot" somewhere.

In after days, we hope you will look back to this time with nothing but pleasure in the remembrance of its being not the least happy season which has occurred to your experience.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, in behalf of my colleagues and for myself, allow us to bid you an affectionate farewell, and cordially, and hopefully, wish you health and happiness in all your relations in life, and a realization of all the aspirations you may have formed : that a green old age may bring you nothing to regret, and but the remembrance of a life well spent in strong endeavors to benefit your fellow men.

PUERPERAL CONVULSIONS.

BY E. SANFORD PLUMBE, M. D.

I WAS called on the 23d of last month to visit Mrs. —, a strong woman, medium height, thick set, of a sanguine temperament, age 30, who was in labor with her first child. On my arrival at one o'clock, I found her with strong labor pains, and under much excitement ; thinking the child dead ; as she informed me that there had been no motion for fifteen days. On making the usual examination, I found a narrowness of the pelvis in the antero posterior direction, with a breach presentation. The pains continued favorable but with no progress for six hours, when I found it necessary to alter the position by turning. After this was accomplished, I had the mortification to find that the uterine pains had almost wholly subsided, and there were strong symptoms of Puerperal Convulsions. Prof. J. D. Friend was sent for. I now commenced giving Semi, Lobelia Inflata, Cypripedium, Pubescens, a a 10 grains, Capsicum 5 do, once in fifteen minutes. The convulsions continued to increase. The medicine was now given once in ten minutes in same proportions for one hour. I found, to save my patient, that the uterus must be emptied. The time which would elapse before Prof. Friend could arrive put it out of reason to remain waiting, fearing that a moment could not be lost with safety to my patient. I was satisfied beyond a doubt of the death of the foetus, and I now wished to relieve the patient in the quickest and safest manner. I

accordingly dissected the child. It was in a partially decomposed state, and weighed fourteen pounds. As soon as the child was born the convulsions ceased—the uterine contractions good—the patient free from pain, except a heavy sensation in the head. The medicine was continued in smaller doses through the day. She slept finely through the night. On visiting her the next morning I found her free from pain, the pulse soft, and the skin moist; the medicine was continued through the day as before.

Monday, the 25th, ordered a mild cathartic. She continued to improve finely, without a bad symptom, and is now able to walk about her room.

Orange Co., N. Y., June 30, 1855.

NUTRIMENT.

BY J. B. SPIES, M. D.

Physiologists teach that our bodies undergo a complete change once in about seven years, so that a person has not a particle of flesh and bone in him now, that he had seven years ago, and what now composes his body will be exhausted in seven years more, and the body formed of new materials. This process of rebuilding is necessarily very slow, in order not to interfere with the occupation of the individual.

This process is carried on in the body by the digestive powers, and the circulating vessels. The food is taken into the stomach and there undergoes the process called digestion; then the vessels prepared for that purpose, take up the nutriment from this mass and carry it into the blood vessels, and thus all over the system, depositing it in such parts and places as the wants of the body demand.

The body is constantly wearing out and decaying, particle by particle, and the circulating vessels take up the worn out or decaying portions and carry them out of the system, and deposit in their place new particles just taken from the food we have eaten.

Now, in order to ascertain how much nutriment it would require for a man in seven years, let him be weighed, and as his body is required to be rebuilt only once in seven years, is it not clear that an amount of nutriment equal to the weight of his body will be all his system will want in seven years?

Suppose the man to weigh 168 pounds, then will not 168 pounds of nutriment be all the system will want in seven years? Divide this 168 into seven parts, so as to ascertain what amount will be required in one year, and the result will be twenty-four pounds per year. Now divide this into twelve parts, and we have two pounds per month, and this two pounds or thirty ounces into thirty-one parts and we have about one ounce for each day. One ounce of nu-

triment per day for you my friend ! Would you believe that one ounce is all the nutriment that your body requires in one day ?

But do not forget that the food of which we generally use the most is not all nutriment, so that we have in using some kinds of food to consume sixteen ounces, in order to obtain one ounce of nutriment ; and again, other kinds of food is nearly all nutriment ; so that it is quite evident that when persons are governed by reason instead of a vitiated appetite, they should, when about to eat, consider how much nutriment the food contains that they are about to consume.

Upon an average, the nutritive matter in a pound of raw meat is not more than four ounces. Mutton is the most nutritive of all meats ; wheat of vegetables. The following table shows the average quantity of nutritive matter in 1000 parts of several varieties of animal and vegetable food :—

Beef	260,	Mutton	290,	Pork	240,	Codfish	210,	Bones	500,	Milk	72,	Wheat,	950,	Rice	880,	Potatoes	260,	Turnips	42,	Cabbage	73,	Beets	148,	Apples	170,	Cherries	250,	Plums	290,	Peaches	200,	Cucumber	25,	Almonds	650.
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Petersburg, Va., June, 1855.

DYSENTERY.

BY PROF. I. M. COMINGS.

THIS form of disease is so prevalent during this month, that it will be acceptable to our readers to give a plain and concise description of it, more especially for mothers, who will thus be prepared to render the most efficient aid to the child before the physician can be called to prescribe.

The alimentary canal and particularly the colon or lower bowels, is the seat of this disease : but while we locate the derangement here, we always find that other organs are affected, the perspiration is checked in the early stage, morbid humors are retained in the system, and the blood becomes vitiated. A diarrhoea comes on which is only an effort of the system to free itself from the irritating cause, or these humors so excite the action of the bowels as to cause them to throw off this poisonous collection. A morbid action in the liver, or a torpid state of this organ, may produce a secretion of vitiated bile which acts as a powerful irritant, and the mucus coat of the colon is thus thrown off. Impure diet, unripe fruits, night air, damp clothing, &c., may produce this disease. Such are some of the causes.

Symptoms.—Frequent and painful discharges from the bowels, of mucus and bloody stools. In some cases we have hard balls called *scybala*, in connexion with the mucus and blood ; fever is almost always an attendant. Before these discharges commence we have

frequently sickness of stomach and diarrhœa. Acrid, watery discharges are also common, with a frothy mucus streaked with blood. Pure blood is sometimes voided, and at others purulent matter as the disease progresses. Tenesmus, or continual desire to stool, is common, and the lower portions of the rectum often protrudes. The above are the most common symptoms of the complaint after it has assumed its distinguishing characteristics. Diarrhœa, which is often the precursor of Dysentery, being a distinct form of disease, we will not describe at this time.

Treatment.—Very often the most simple means will cure this complaint. The great object to gain in the treatment is to correct the vitiated state of the alimentary canal and to allay the irritation that has been caused by this condition ; also, to protect the abraded mucus coat by mucillages. To fulfil these indications there is one compound or remedy that is almost universally applicable. We refer to the *Neutralizing Mixture*,—that preparation of Rhubarb, Peppermint, and Soda. If Dr. Beach had never performed any other work worthy of credit, the introduction of this formula alone would render his name illustrious. As many of our readers may not know this formula, we give it as follows : Take Rhubarb root bruised, Soda and Peppermint or Spearmint or Cinnamon, equal parts ; say one ounce to one-half pint of boiling water ; strain off and add loaf sugar to sweeten well ; add a few teaspoonfuls of brandy, and you have the Neutralizing Mixture. A teaspoonful of this for a child one year old, every hour, will soon afford relief ; for older children a larger dose. In adults, a teaspoonful of Hot Drops should be added to a tablespoonful of this mixture, especially if there is griping.

The alkali of this preparation neutralizes the acidity of the stomach, while the Rhubarb seems to quicken the action of the bowels, and thus removes any morbid collections in them, and restores their tone. The peppermint or cinnamon also lessens the irritation and affords the necessary stimulant. If this does not succeed in checking the disease, we have been accustomed to use the Myricine or the Geranin combined with this mixture. While this preparation is used, if it does not afford relief, we would advise astringent injections with mucillages, together with fermentations of bitter herbs to the bowels.

A very successful treatment has been employed by some of our physicians, and we have been pleased with its effects. It is a full dose of Leptandrin or the simple powdered black root, followed by some mild astringent tonic, with diaphoretic teas and cordials.

The Blackberry Syrup with a teaspoonful of No. 6, is an excellent remedy. If there is much febrile excitement the whole surface should be sponged with ley water or cold, wet towels should be placed around the body. In some bad cases we have known the Pine bark boiled in milk to prove very efficacious.

Our friends, Messrs. Law & Boyd, prepare a very popular Dysentery remedy. It is an acid compound of Vinegar, Cayenne, Camphor, &c., in one vial, with an alkaline mixture of soda and ammonia in another. A teaspoonful dose of one is to be followed by the other, and the union of these in the stomach and their combined action is such, as to make this a very popular remedy in this city.

In some cases the vapor bath, or a full Thomsonian course of medicine, will be found necessary to effect a cure.

68 East Broadway, N. Y.

LIGHT BREAD.

BY J. B. SPIERS, M. D.

It is perhaps generally known that physicians almost universally recommend invalids to eat stale, light bread in preference to fresh-baked. Why is this? The truth is, it is equally as necessary for well people to eat stale bread as it is for sick people in order to recover health.

But *why* is stale bread more healthy than fresh-baked? The rising of dough is a process of dissolution and putrefaction, and when carried a little too far renders the article unfit for use. Fresh baked, light bread therefore contains, to some extent, the principles of dissolution and putrefaction, and consequently, the principles of death, as far as it goes, and this often goes far enough to produce disease.

Fresh-baked, light bread contains a volatile poison, but if the bread can be laid aside for a day or two, the most of this poisonous principle evaporates, and leaves good and wholesome food. Fresh-baked, light bread, hot from the oven, with a plenty of butter, is a first rate article to produce dyspepsia.

Why is it that bakers do not eat fresh-baked, light bread? Their rule, I believe, is to use the oldest bread in the house. Many, no doubt, consider this merely as a matter of economy. Well, it certainly appears like good economy; but I have never yet met with the first instance of a baker who did not, when interrogated on the subject, declare his belief, that stale bread was to him preferable to fresh-baked. I am informed that it is a custom in some parts of the country, not to use light bread until it has been baked at least twenty-four hours. But that is not the custom here. With us the freshest baked that can be obtained is preferred. The stale bread sells a little cheaper than the fresh-baked, being considered an inferior article.

Let those now who "eat to live" never, if they can avoid it, eat fresh-baked, light bread. But unfortunately for human beings, the majority of reasoning mortals are governed more by *taste* than *rea-*

son or experience, in what they eat and drink. The declaration is not, generally, I want such and such food because it best promotes my health, but I want those articles of food because I love them—consulting *taste* more than *health*. Every person loves health, but every one does not love to use the means to promote health. One who would enjoy health must, "Take up his cross, deny himself, and follow" the dictates of reason and experience, or he cannot be a disciple of Higeia. He cannot long enjoy health and enjoy life without obedience to physiological laws.

One of the most common forms of disease which fresh-baked bread is calculated to produce is Dyspepsia. Let those, therefore, who want dyspepsia, or who have it and are determined to keep it, use fresh-baked, light bread.

Petersburg, Va., June, 1855.

THE NATIONAL ECLECTIC CONVENTION.

BY EPHRAIM CLAPP, M. D.

(Continued from our last.)

THE time of the Convention, which was spent in remarks on the Concentrated Medicines was well employed. It was charged by some of the speakers that the preparations sent out from the Laboratory in New York were, many of them, worthless and deceptive,—that the proprietor was taking pains to let the Allopathic profession understand that he had no affiliation or sympathy with any sect of "irregulars"—that he was no longer with the Reformers in feeling, and was decrying their Medical Colleges. If there is no foundation for these and other charges, Dr. Keith owes it to himself and to the friends who have thus far sustained his enterprise, and to whom he must look mainly for support hereafter, to publish in our Medical Journals the evidence of their falsity, and clear himself from the suspicions which seem to be gathering strength all over the country.

The subject of Medical Journals received a proper share of attention ; and the resolution recommending that those already in existence be well sustained and discouraging the publication of any more, was timely and judicious.

In regard to Medical Colleges, the Committee having that subject in charge, seemed anxious to avoid offending any body, and so reported a series of resolutions general in their character, and throwing no light upon the condition of any of our Reformed Medical Schools. I regretted this, as there was a reporter of the New York Tribune present, and the Committee must have been aware that their report, along with the other proceedings, would be published in that paper. It seems a strange omission not to have availed themselves of the opportunity of giving wider currency to the exist-

ence of such Colleges as the Worcester, the Metropolitan of New York, the Syracuse and Macon, the Philadelphia, and the Physio-Medical and American Colleges of Cincinnati. I do not include Dr. Buchanan's School in this Catalogue, because of the overshadowing selfishness of the man, and because I consider his school and the doctrines taught there, as but a step removed from the most odious and obnoxious features of Allopathy. Nor am I alone in this opinion. The huckstering trade of student-catching, which prevails there, and the attempts which have been made to break down and crush other Reformed Medical Schools, is securing for him and his colleagues a harvest of pity and contempt. As was remarked by an "Eclectic" member of the Convention, in a private conversation on the course pursued by Prof. Buchanan and his associates, he will find ere long that "curses like young chickens still come home to roost."

The resolution recommending to the Trustees of our Colleges the admission of females to the regular or to the private course, met my hearty concurrence and approval. Depend upon it, the adoption of this report from the Committee on Colleges, will do more to extend and popularize the cause, and to awaken an interest in behalf of our Colleges, than half a dozen such Conventions as this. The sympathies of woman are, naturally enough, with Medical Reformers. Hitherto we have shut the doors of our schools against them. Now we propose to give them a hearty welcome, and with the women of America with us, who can be against us?

The proposition to adopt a name which might embrace all the friends of sanative medication, met with no disfavor, but as the subject was first brought up near the close of the Convention, it was thought best to defer the consideration of so important a matter till the next annual meeting. I hope that you and I, and a host of the real friends of Medical Reform may live to see that day, and be there to help on the glorious cause.

FEMORAL ABSCESS.

BY H. L. CROSBY, M. D.

MR. EDITOR: The case of Dropsy cured by me, as reported in your last, was given up to die by the Allopathic physician in attendance. The following case was also given up as incurable, and as Reformed Physicians are often accused of killing their patients, perhaps it is best for us to report some cases that we *cure* after they are incurable in the hands of the Old School Doctors.

William Atkins, a tailor by trade, and accustomed to drink, by a fall upon a tumbler which was broken under him, inflicted a severe wound upon the posterior portion of the thigh, on the 1st of Febru-

ary, 1854. He was attended by the physicians of the Dispensary, for ten days, when they pronounced him incurable. The wound had increased by the inflammation, and the patient had sunk so low in consequence of the general debility and constitutional disturbance, that his case was indeed a doubtful one.

We commenced the treatment on the 11th of February, by vegetable poultices and our anti-mercurial or alterative syrups, and on the 5th of April following we discharged him cured, and he has enjoyed good health since.

This abscess was very extensive, involving almost the whole thigh. We made two openings, one above and the other below the seat of the injury, from which was discharged not less than one quart of pus every twenty-four hours, for some days.

We kept the strength of our patient up by the use of tonics, and these with our alterative vegetable syrups, soon assisted the powers of nature in bringing on a favorable crisis, and our patient was well.

We do not claim any superior skill in the cure of these cases above many other Botanic Physicians ; but we do claim a vast superiority over the poisoning, depleting, mercurializing treatment of the Allopathic doctors ; and we only wish they were half as willing to give us credit for the bad cases we cure, as they are to censure us for the few cases we unfortunately lose, even after they have given them up to die.

433 Pearl Street, New York, July, 1855.

Selections.

USEFUL RECEIPTS.

Dye from Potatoe Tops.—Cut the tops, when in flower, and express the juice. If linen or woolen goods are steeped in this liquor for eight and forty hours, they will be stained of a golden yellow color.

Good Black Writing Ink.—An excellent ink may be made as follows ; but if the paper has been made from inferior rags, bleached by an excess of chlorine, ink, however good, will be ultimately discolored. Some time should elapse, after the ingredients are put together, to allow them to combine perfectly.

6 oz. Alepo galls,	4 oz. Gum Arabic.
4 oz. Sulphate of Iron,	6 pints of Water.

Boil the galls in the water, then add the other ingredients, and keep the whole in a wooden or glass vessel, shaking the mixture

occasionally. In two months strain it off, and add three drops of creosote to each pint of liquor to prevent mould; bottle it up, and cork it well.

Red Writing Ink.—Boil two ounces of brazil wood in a pint of water, for fifteen minutes, and add a little gum Arabic and alum. A fine red ink may be made by using cochineal instead of brazil wood.

Indelible Marking Ink.—Dissolve two drachms of pure nitrate of silver, and one drachm of gum arabic in seven drachms of distilled water, adding a little Indian ink for the purpose of coloring it. This ink, when used on linen, will turn brown by exposure to the sun's rays or the fire, but its indelible properties can not be relied on, unless the cloth is previously moistened with the following liquid: Two drachms of crystallised carbonate of soda, and two drachms of gum arabic, dissolved in four ounces of water. The spot to be written on is first wetted and dried with this last mixture.

Cement to join Glass and China.—Soak isinglass in water until it is soft, then pour off the superfluous liquid; add to this as much proof spirit as will make it, when warmed, of the consistence of cream, but a few drops of gum mastic must have been previously dissolved in the spirit. This cement must be kept in a bottle closely corked and warmed when required for use by placing it in a basin of hot water.

Scouring Drops to remove Grease from Silk.—Equal parts by weight, of highly rectified spirits of turpentine, and essential oil of lemons. This mixture is very effectual in removing spots of grease. If kept long its virtues are much impaired. It is better to make it when wanted for immediate use.

Macassar Oil.—To a pound of olive oil add one drachm of oil of thyme, and about a third of a drachm of oil of rosemary.

To Remove Freckles.—Take Alysson Seeds (mad-wort), one part, strained honey, two parts, mix them well together, and apply the mixture to the skin.

To Destroy Wasps, &c.—Make a strong infusion of Quassia in water, and sweeten it well with sugar. This mixture is equally efficacious with the poisonous preparation of arsenic, sometimes used, and can not do any injury to children or others.

Ague and Fever Mixture.—Quinine one drachm, Persian blue one drachm, cayenne half a drachm, mixed. Give five to ten grains

three times a day. Or the juice of the burdock, a wineglassful in the morning, fasting.

For obstinate Costiveness in Epilepsy or Puerperal Convulsions.—Take the yolk of an egg, beat it up, and stir in briskly, 1-4 of an ounce of castor oil, and 1-4 of an ounce of spirits of Turpentine. Give the mixture.

Editorial.

THE DISCUSSION BETWEEN DRs. CURTIS AND TRALL.

In the July number of the Water Cure Journal Dr. Trall takes occasion to drag us with Drs. Prettyman and John into this discussion. We can but think that Dr. Trall found Prof. Curtis too much for him, and hence he is disposed to get some of us smaller fry into the contest, so that he may get the credit of overcoming some one, as he dispairs of Dr. Curtis.

"We do endorse Dr. Curtis's articles as conclusive," and are very glad to say that we have read Dr. Trall's replies with care, and do not think he has fairly met a single point. We intended to copy the whole discussion pro and con, but can find little reason to continue it, since Dr. Trall is only telling what he is going to do, but has not yet answered Dr. C.

We shall leave Dr. Curtis to manage this discussion, since he has conducted it so ably thus far, and we will only engage so far as we ourselves are attacked. A few random shots is all we shall give. Dr. T. asks us, "what are nature's remedies, and what are poisons?" Dr. Curtis has answered both these queries in the plainest manner possible, but as we are personally interrogated we will reply. Those remedies which act physiologically are nature's remedies. Water, at various temperatures, may produce the most happy effects on the diseased body by removing obstructions, stimulating some organs, quieting others; equalizing the circulation in deranged functions, and in various ways bringing about a healthy action in the weakened organization, or if friend Trall likes the idea better we will say the organs *act on the water*, and the above effects are produced. We will not dispute this point, for it is one of little moment so far as we are concerned.

Fifteen years of experience with harmless remedial agents has taught us that, these remedies will act just as the water acts on the system, or that the same results follow the use of the one, that does the other. The same healthy, normal action is induced. Nature, the great physician, is aided by the one, as well as the other, and art and skill can only be efficient in proportion as they aid the recuperative efforts of Nature.

We know by experience that the action of such remedies as Catnip, Lobelia, Cayenne, and other agents used by Medical Reformers, is just as physiological as the water, so freely and exclusively used by our friend Trall. Nature's remedies are such as act in harmony with the laws of life, and poisons are such agents as act against the principle of life—those that destroy, debilitate, over excite, derange, weaken or stupify.

We might show the specific action, or the effect on the system, of our Reformed Medical agents, just as plainly as friend T. does the virtues of water, and if necessary we will do so in future.

The reason we are not exclusive in our practice as Dr. Trall, is this : our experience has taught us these harmless remedies hasten the recuperative process, and bring about a healthy state much sooner than the water alone, and more than this, we believe there are agents in our *Materia Medica* that may be used most efficiently when the water will not produce the least effect.

Is it not rather presumtuos for you to dictate to us *how* we shall argue the question with you, the *manner* we shall "prove our side." "Not one of us has given a single paragraph of argument that will bear a logical analysis." This is quite a sweeping assertion, and one we hardly think Dr. Trall's own readers and followers will believe. It is a way that some men have to reply to unanswered and unanswerable arguments.

Is there any vanity in the following? "It would please me well to have as many of the profession as can make it convenient, to place themselves in a line before I fire that magazine which is to demolish not them, but their errors, in such a manner, that the fragments will never be got together again in the shape of a medical science or a healing art." O dear, what a wreck of matter and a crash of worlds there will be when this magazine is fired off! Look out, friend Trall, lest this explosion may annihilate your *own system*, and with all your water you will not be able to quench it!

Is your *ipse dixit* of sufficient weight to meet your opponent's arguments, fortified as they were by physiological facts, true science, and philosophy? Is Dr. Trall's *Cyclopedia of medicine* supreme authority, and is there no appeal?

" Does Marcus say 'tis so,
Then so it is."

Well, really, this is presumption equal to Allopathy.

Don't give yourself any trouble, Doctor, to "discuss both sides" of this question, for we feel quite sure that every one who has read Dr. Curtis's arguments feels quite well satisfied with the way he has used you up. We will not trouble you, therefore, to aid us, as we think you will have full enough to do to sustain *one* side.

Let us hope, therefore, that you will be satisfied to reply to Dr. Curtis and not seek for sympathy from your readers because you have *so many* opponents. Let Prettyman, John, and Comings alone, for they feel well satisfied to let our cause rest with our champion. We only put in a little sideway shot without the least desire to get into a controversy, and we regret that Dr. Trall should suffer himself to be led away from his opponent to discuss minor points with younger and less experienced combatants.

AN ECLECTIC PROFESSOR'S VIEWS OF CALOMEL.

PROF. CLEAVELAND, of Cincinnati, complains, in a private letter to us that we have been too *personal* in our remarks on the above subject, and says : "the name of the agent was as little comprehended as the idea, for had we carefully read the whole article we must have perceived his object was to convince the profession that we have other and safer remedies which will entirely answer the purposes for which the advocates of Calomel employ that drug."

Our printers made the types say "America" instead of "Ammonia," but the quotation was fairly made from the Doctor's article, and he does say the

"Podophyllin cannot be relied on to supply the place of the mercurials in those cases where the solvent property is demanded, as in inflammatory adhesions of the tissues of the eyes, or in pleural, or in other adhesions of serous surfaces. Neither do I think it will remove deposits of inflammatory exudations following syphilitic infections, as calomel will."

Have we quoted right? and does this show that "we have other and safer remedies which will *entirely* answer the purposes for which the advocates of Calomel employ that drug?" If Dr. C. intended to convey this idea to the readers of the Lancet, he was certainly very unfortunate in the selection of his words.

We know the object of our friend Cleaveland was to get the Allopathic profession to use the Podophyllin. His intentions were praiseworthy and probably just as he expresses above; but really we think he ought not to complain of injustice at our hands when we quoted him fairly, and surely gave the "Professor's views of Calomel" so far as the extract went, and nothing in the article contradicted the above assertions.

The Professor's threats and insinuations are altogether gratuitous, and we have only to say we shall ever be ready to defend what we believe to be truth, and to expose and condemn error.

We have never been accused of timidity in showing up the course of

those who are trying to "run with the hare and the hound," and if Prof. C. is a little nettled because we have exposed "Eclectic views" to the Reformed Medical public, we know of no better way to pacify him than to have him prove that our quotations from the Lancet do not convey the "idea" he intended, and that he "comprehends" the matter differently from what we do. Our pages are open to him for this purpose.

STIMULATION AND IRRITATION.

WHATEVER intervals of leisure we could get during the past few weeks we have devoted to the perusal of "Principles and Practice of Surgery by James Miller," revised by F. W. Sargent of Philadelphia. This work is one of the best and most extensive we have seen, and if it could be afforded at a little lower price, it would be more extensively used. But our object is not to review or extol this book, but rather to show that the same objection exists to the teachings of this author, that we notice in every Allopathic writer. They are all strangely ignorant of the difference between a *pure* and an *impure* stimulant. Not one of them knows the different action of Alcohol and Cayenne. This Author particularly directs that Alcoholic stimulants should be continuously given in some low grades of fever, but should not be given in other stages. Now this is all very good, but if those learned authors were told that Capsicum and Lobelia could be administered in high grades of fever, and that the action of Cayenne would equalize the circulation and reduce the pulse, &c., they would at once pronounce such information as unworthy of their attention, as paradoxical and inconsistant with medical science, yet such is the case. The prudent exhibition of Cayenne, and any other pure stimulant will act perfectly physiological; the pulse will not be increased. Alcoholic stimulants will *unnaturally* exite and raise the pulse above a normal state, but pepper will not do it; hence if the pulse is low it will be raised to the natural state, but not above this by the pure stimulant, while the impure will increase the excitement and thus be liable to do injury.

All alcoholic stimulants together with a large number of those used by the Old School profession are of this class of *irritants*, or impure stimulants; hence, as long as they confound a stimulant with an irritant, or make no proper distinction between a pure and an impure stimulant, will their errors in the treatment of fevers remain.

The true physiology of Inflammation is a sealed book to the great mass of Allopathic physicians, with all their learning and science they have yet to get hold of, a few simple truths and facts, which now are mist and dark-

ness to them. They have theorised and speculated so much on the subject of fever and inflammation, that they are completely befogged. Some are bigoted, others self-sufficient, others again are indifferent and carelessly stupid, while another class doggedly follow some routine practice without the least enquiry or interest in its truth or its success.

In what way can our philosophy and common sense ideas of Inflammation ever be extended into the ranks of Allopathy ?

There is no way that we can show the difference between our pure stimulents and those in use among the Allopaths, than by quoting the following from this work. "It is our wish to produce and maintain stimulation, and by all means to prevent depression, moderate doses of wine, brandy, ammonia, &c., should be used with caution, moderate doses, small yet sufficient to produce excitement; measured not by the wineglass, but by the teaspoon. The effect of each dose is watched by a competent and assiduous attendant, and as soon as the stimulant effect begins to be departed from and not before ; the dose is repeated."

Such are the cautions in the administration of these *irritating* stimulents but this is not necessary in the use of pure cayenne. If the pulse is low it will raise it to its normal standard, but no more; if high, it will reduce it, and this without any attention, except to be sure and give enough.

WHAT IS QUACKERY ?

THE following manly outspoken sentiments we cut from the Sunday Courier of the 9th of June. If the Press will but speak out in such language as this, we shall soon see the Allopathic walls crumbling before an enlightened public sentiment.

It is somewhat singular that the Old School doctors should try to attach the epithet of quack to the Reformers of the day, when the word had its origin from "*Quack-Salber*," the German words for quicksilver, and hence those who first used mercury were called "*quacks*," so those of the present day who poison their patients with mercury ought to be the quacks and we feel assured that it more appropriately belongs to them. Here is the extract.

"If a man sells a medicine which he knows to be injurious, he ought to be called an 'infernal scoundrel,' and held up to public execration. The greater part of the so-called quack medicines, however, are, at least, as little injurious as the filthy drugs of the regular practitioners, and many of them are much less so. The majority of the regular faculty are out-and-out quacks, and the mischief they do is greatly increased by the legal diploma, which gives them a license to kill any unfortunate patient who may fall into

their ignorant hands. All great medical discoverers were quacks to their contemporaries. The great Harvey, who discovered the circulation of the blood, was a quack, and so was the immortal Jenner, who discovered vaccination, and doubtless had the honor of being called infernal scoundrels by the conservative old fogies of their day.

"But quacks are among our social necessities; people are fond of doctoring themselves, and the man who supplies the public with mild medicines, which do no great harm, is rather a benefactor than a scoundrel. The scoundrels of the medical profession are the regularly licensed Sangrados who have about as much principle as a hungry alligator."

SOUTHERN BOTANICO MEDICAL COLLEGE.

THIS College now stands at the head of Reformed Medical Colleges in the United States. It was chartered, we believe, the same year that the Botanico Medical College of Ohio was, and it has passed through seventeen years of experience which has matured its facilities and usefulness. The gradual and constant increase in the number of students has gained for it the confidence and hearty support of all the friends of Medical Reform, as well as a due and substantial acknowledgement of its worth from the Legislature of the State.

One element of success in this Institution has been its close and firm adherence to the principles of innocuous medication. Its teachings have been considered by some half-way Reformers as too radical, but the success which has followed the practice of the students who have been taught in this College, has gained for them the support of the wealthiest men in the state, and given an impetus to the Reformed Practice which will increase in future years.

It will be seen that our name is in the Circular of both the Metropolitan and the S. B. M. College, but as the Lectures here commence a few weeks earlier, we shall not be detained from filling our Chair in the Southern College, and whatever deficiency there may be here, will be made up by the Faculty.

ACTIVE PRINCIPLES OF PLANTS.

In looking over our exchanges we see that our Cincinnati friends are in much trouble in relation to the preparations manufactured by B. Keith & Co. of this City. We took the liberty to call on these gentlemen and informed them that Drs. King & Cleveland had stated that they combined "old ground up leaves, rosin and magnesia," with their alkaloids and resinoids. They stated to us that if any one would visit their store and take

from their shelves any preparation that contained any of the articles above named, they would give them their entire stock. In one visit to their laboratory we were informed by their analytical chemist, that he had been there since June, and none of the above named articles had been used in any preparation. As this subject is before a committee of medical men, a full report may be expected in due time.

PLATFORM OF MEDICAL PRINCIPLES.

THE Editor of the Worcester Journal of Medicine is out against all platforms of Medical Principles, and in this article on this subject, he certainly shows the most consummate ignorance of *all medical principles* that we have ever noticed in the writings of any one who pretends to be a Medical Reformer. The merest tyro in Medical Science, ought to be better acquainted with the difference between Allopathy and Medical Reform, and yet from this long article we cannot learn that there is any difference between the Worcester Medical savan and the Allopath, than that "we should not bind ourselves in dogged obstinacy, or tie our hands and refuse to take a course which our better judgment might suggest, &c."

But we have no room for a review of this article. We leave our middle States friends to defend themselves, for they are abundantly able to do it. In the mean time, we hope Prof. Curtis will give us a few "*strictures*" on this Eclectic physician's views.

A NEW DISCOVERY.

WE notice in the Medical Counsellor of Ohio the following recipe as a palliative for the Whooping Cough, viz:

Hydriodate potassa,	6 grs.
Gum Arabic,	7 oz.
Syrup Senya Snake Root,	1 oz.
Tinct. Lobelia,	1 oz.

Dose, a teaspoonful 4 times a day, to a child two years old. It also recommends the bowels to be kept open by the use of Calomel and Rhubarb.

Now if any of our patrons want the best palliative, let them use the tinct. Lobelia with the mucilage above. It always seems strange to us that our Old School friends will mix up the poison with the antidote.

A few years ago the celebrated Dr. Twitchell of N. Y., recommended Opium and Lobelia as a sure cure for Hydrophobia, but the Lobelia alone

is far better; for Opium never cured Hydrophobia, but Lobelia has, hence every particle used in connexion with Lobelia, or any other medicine will hinder its operation.

We dislike to see Lobelia in such bad company. Come friends, throw aside your prejudices and use our Sampson without association with poisonous drugs.

ECLECTICISM, A PROTEST AND DISCLAIMER.

In our last issue we said that Prof. Buchanan of the Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati had disclaimed any fellowship with the meeting called the National Eclectic Medical Association, convened in this City in June last. We have only room for the following extracts from this disclaimer.

"No *really national* Eclectic Medical Association has ever existed. An attempt to organize such an Eclectic Medical Association was made in Cincinnati in 1848, which resulted only in collecting together some seventy or eighty Western physicians. Since the termination of that attempt local meetings have been held in Eastern States, ostensibly in continuation of the so-called National Eclectic Medical Association of Cincinnati, but without any legitimate connection with the defunct parent society and without any nationality, consisting in fact of some two or three dozen gentlemen from neighboring regions, without any authority or right to represent the sentiments of any large portion of the profession. The late New-York meeting had still less right to represent those who are known as Eclectics, as it appears to have consisted of a miscellaneous gathering, in which Eclecticism Botanico-Medicalism, Thomsonism, Physio Medicalism, and other indescribable forms of independant radicalism were harmoniously jumbled together. As for being represented before the medical public by this accidental *olla podrida*, meeting I beg leave to enter a very decided protest, not only in behalf of myself as an individual and a medical professor but as dean in behalf of the faculty of the Eclectic Medical Institute, who do not desire to have the little reputation they may have enjoyed rendered entirely ludicrous by the position in which they would be placed if the New York meeting were recognized as their representative.

"As to the individuals composing the meeting, we desire none but harmonious relations with them, and with all other portions of the medical profession; but justice to ourselves compels us to declare that we entirely disavow and repudiate the New York meeting, and we hope that the press and the public will not be deceived by the high-sounding title of National Eclectic Medical Association and induced to attach any undue importance to

such unauthorized and promiscuous meetings, nor to hold others responsible for their proceedings who distinctly and totally disavow all responsibility for and connection with the New York meeting, with which they are not and will not be professionally identified." Jos. R. BUCHANAN.

Now, why in the name of all that is *reasonable* and *cōsistant*, do the friends of Medical Reform hold on the coat tail of Eclecticism? Why not at once renounce the *name* which is really in this quarter, becoming a by-word, and which even Prof. Buchanan himself is ready to disavow? There is no sympathy between the Western mongrels, and those calling themselves Eclectics in this State and New England. We can but hope that the next meeting of this body will take some means to *disavow* such half-way reform as is advocated by the Eclectics of Ohio. We think our western medical renegades are emphatically the "*olla podrida*, the incongruous mixture of the odds and ends of isms in Medicine, and it little becomes Prof B. to characterise us as mixed up, since he has heretofore considered us as "*one idea*" men.

IS IT SO?

We have been informed by a Reformed Medical Physician of Portland, Maine, that James M. Buzzell, M. D., a Prof. in the Eclectic Medical College of Philadelphia, residing in Portland, refuses to consult or have professional intercourse with Reformed Physicians in that city, stating as his only objections, that they do not belong to the Allopathic Association of that city, which interdicts this intercourse. This Portland Physician writes us as follows: "Can it be possible that the Profs. of the Eclectic College are ignorant of the real character and reputation of Dr. Buzzell in Maine?" The bible tells us we "cannot serve God and Mammon." Will Drs. Prettyman and John inform us if such are the facts in relation to one of their regular contributors?

OUR EXCHANGES.

NICHOL'S MONTHLY.—This is a "Magazine of Social Science and Progressive Literature." It is published in duodecimo form of 72 pages, the organ of the Central Bureau of "*The Progressive Union*, a society for Mutual Protection in Right." If the June Number is a fair specimen, we must speak in high terms of this Monthly. It is worthy the patronage of all Reformers. We have always regarded the Editors as among the best

writers in the country, and wish them all success in this laudable enterprise. A year's subscription will give you two handsome volumes of 432 pages each or 864 pages a year, of prose, poetry and other interesting matter, such as can be found in no other periodical in the world.

Address T. L. Nichols M. D., 321 Broadway, N. Y. Subscription \$1,00. Single copies post paid 12½ cts.

HALL'S JOURNAL OF HEALTH.—This is a most excellent Journal and worthy the patronage of an enlightened public. It is ably conducted and we hope to enrich our columns with extracts from its pages. Terms \$1 per annum, single numbers 10 cts. Address W. W. Hall, 42 Irving Place, N. Y.

MEDICAL RAMBLER.—This is a sprightly folio, edited and published by R. Richard Clay, M. D., Portland, Maine. It is issued monthly at 50 cts. per annum. The only Reformed Medical Journal in Maine. We wish the editor success in his warfare against quackery wherever it may be. We place it on our exchange list.

NASHVILLE JOURNAL OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY.—This is one of the largest Allopathic Journals in the country. It is edited by Profs. Bowling & Eve, of the Nashville Medical University. It is ably edited and we learn from the Catalogue issued with the April No. that this College is quite a rival of the N. York and Philadelphia Medical Schools. There were 294 matriculates the last Session. We had hoped that Allopathy in the West would become more reformatory, but it continues the same. Terms of this Journal, \$3,00 in advance. Address, Bowling & Eve, Nashville, Tenn.

THE U. S. MAGAZINE.—“Were the actual worth of this sterling monthly generally known, its subscription list would number hundreds, instead of tens of thousands,” so said the Dispatch, and so will say every one who is fortunate enough to get a glimpse of the July number. We have noticed this Magazine before and all our subscribers who want a really useful paper, can get a specimen copy by remitting 12½ cts. to J. M. Emerson & Co., No. 1 & 7 Spruce Street N. Y., to whom all communications should be addressed.

FEES OF THE METROPOLITAN MEDICAL COLLEGE.—It will be seen by a reference to the Circular of our College that the fees have been reduced. The Board have been induced to make this change to conform more nearly to the fees of the various Colleges in New England, and thus give our Students the superior advantages of this city without any additional expense

BOOK NOTICES.

DAILY'S FAMILY PRACTICE OF MEDICINE, OR 'DOMESTIC PHYSICIAN, containing 824 pages, giving the description, causes, symptoms and treatment of one hundred and seventy-seven of the various diseases of men, women and children, with a plain description of nearly four hundred medicinal trees, shrubs, plants and herbs, illustrated with upwards of one hundred engravings. By WILLIAM DAILY, M. D., the Indian Doctor.

Dr. Daily, from his having spent two years with the Indians in the study of the medical properties of herbs in nature's garden, before being a graduate at Cincinnati, Ohio, and having an unlimited practice for the last fifteen years, has enabled him to write just such a book as the people of the age require.

The book will be sold to agents in every county in the United States. Good business men will make from \$5 to \$10 per day.

The terms, when delivered by mail, postage prepaid, \$6 a copy; two copies, \$11. Send \$6 for a copy to receive subscribers by, and then order the number wanted, by express, at wholesale prices for cash. When ordered at the subscriber's expense, by express or shipment, \$5 a copy; six copies, \$24; twelve copies, \$40.

 Books will only be sent to cash orders. Address

WM. DAILY, M. D.,
No. 78 Second street, Louisville, Ky.

We have examined Dr. Daily's Work, and can recommend it as a most valuable family Physician. It has no theoretical or speculative notions, but is eminently a *practical* work. It is written in a familiar and pleasing style, better suited for family use than any Botanic work we have seen. We bespeak for this book a rapid sale. Those in this section of the country can obtain them by addressing the Author as above; the postage prepaid is 44 cts. to any part of the United States.

 From various sources abroad, we learn that our class next October will be a large one, compared with those heretofore. New York and New England will be well represented. We shall probably occupy the good portion of the hours for the month of October on Anatomy, so that it is desirable that the students be here at the opening on the 16th Oct. next.

 A writer in the Hydropathic Review says: "A man in absolute health would not blow his nose once a year, and a healthy man never spits." To this an Allopathic journal adds: "Not disputing this statement, we

should add to it that an entirely healthy man is above the necessity of continual ablution to keep himself clean." The Arabs of the desert are noted for their longevity, and yet have no use whatever of water as an outside hydropathic agent.

EXCERPTA.

A The Fredericksburgh News, speaking of the effect of intermarriage among blood relations, says : "In the county in which we were raised, for twenty generations back, certain families of wealth and respectability have intermarried, until there cannot be found, in three or four of them, a sound man or woman ! One has sore eyes, another scrofula, a third is idiotic, a fourth blind, a fifth bandy-legged, a sixth with a head about the size of a turnip, with not one out of the number exempt from physical defects of some kind or other.

A A new method of constructing mineral teeth has been invented—the teeth and gum being carved in one entire piece, without seam or joint, and doubly securing them by soldering and also fusing them to the plate upon which they are set, at the same time leaving no space under or around the base of the tooth. The gum is constructed upon the inside of the teeth as well as the outside, giving the work a beautiful life-like appearance, and also a natural form for the tongue to play upon, so as to produce distinct enunciation.

One-fifth of the deaths in the northern and eastern states are from consumption or other diseases of the throat and lungs. In New York city, in the last fifty years, from a total mortality of 383,800, nearly 84,000 were from these diseases. The number of females thus dying is one-quarter more than the males ; and the deaths from lung diseases among children, under five years old, is greater than among adults. Some physicians and medical journals are advocating the establishment of consumption hospitals for the special treatment of this class of diseases, the same having been found very useful in other countries.

A The London Lancet says: "Let a person in bed be covered with sufficient blankets to promote perspiration, and let those blankets be covered with an Oil or India rubber cloth, or other impervious fabric; in the morning the blanket will be dry, but the under-surface of the India-rubber cloth will be quite wet. The blankets, by their dryness, shows that the exhalations of the body pass through them to the surrounding air, had they not been intercepted by the impervious outer covering. Thus it is inevitable that the habitual use of an impervious covering is injurious. Its effects must be to place the body in a constant vapor-bath, in which the insensible or healthy

perspiration is constantly becoming condensed into the form of humidity ; and being prevented from passing off in its elastic and visible form, the perspiration thus constantly becomes checked, and skin eruptions would be the result.

☞ The medical fraternity have formed the staple for many a folio of "grave" jokes. Here is one of the same sort. The congregation of a church were very much annoyed at the continual intoxication of their sexton in fact, his misconduct had reached such a height that he had been seen to squeeze the hands of several stout elderly females when handing them out of their carriages, and although said females had failed to make any complaints, it was deemed expedient that the vestry should call the offender to account. Now it so chanced, that the leading man in the vestry was a certain well-known physician, and he having undertaken to reprimand, the sexton listened until he got through, but then exclaimed, with great indignation—"Sir, I thought you would have been the last man alive to be so hard agin me, when I've been this many a year *covering up blunders of yours!*"

☞ A lunatic received a severe injury of the great toe by the fall of a heavy piece of wood, so that the nail was torn away. The physician, on examining the patient, remarked that he seemed scarcely to feel this injury, ordinarily so very painful. On examining the case more minutely, he found that the lunatic had completely lost cutaneous sensibility. This led him to examine all the lunatics in his establishment, and he found that out of 180 insane persons, (100 males and 80 females) 18 (17 males and 1 female) had complete anaesthesia of the skin ; and in six others, who were males, the sensibility to pain was very much decreased.

☞ Prof. Hufland says that, so far as external life is concerned, sleep is no less necessary for its duration than its health. Without the proper amount of sleep, our vital energy is dried up and withered, and we waste away, as a tree would deprived of the sap that nourishes it. The physical effects of sleep are, that it retards all the vital movements, collects the vital power, and restores what has been lost in the course of the day, and separates from us what is useless and pernicious. It is, as it were, a daily crisis, during which all secretions are performed in the greatest tranquility and perfection.

☞ A lady about forty years old, says the Journal of Health, who has suffered severely from periodical attacks of palpitation of the heart, from the early age of twelve years, has found immediate and permanent relief from the use of soda. It appears from experiments since made, that carbonic acid gas is the active curative agent.

A singular case happened recently at Milton, Canada, which has excited some attention among medical men. It appears that a young man, while riding upon a load of straw, was thrown backward, by the starting of the horse, and fell upon the point of a pitch-fork, which had inadvertently been left sticking in the hinder part of the load. The shaft of the fork struck the ground, the point of the prongs entering the left side of his chest about an inch from the centre of his back, just below the shoulder-blade, passing immediately over the heart, and coming out between the ribs, one inch from the centre of the breast, and three inches below the collar-bone. He was immediately attended by a physician, and on the sixth day was able to walk two miles; and on the fourteenth day he commenced his ordinary avocations on the farm.

METROPOLITAN MEDICAL COLLEGE, N. Y.

THE fourth Session of this College will commence on the third Tuesday of October, 1855, at the Hall of the College, No. 68 East Broadway, N. Y.

The following Faculty will lecture the next Session.

I. M. COMINGS, M. D., Anatomy and Surgery.

H. A. ARCHER, M. D., Theory and Practice.

J. D. FRIEND, M. D., Midwifery and Diseases of Women, &c.

T. S. SPERRY, M. D., Chemistry and Materia Medica.

H. S. LINCOLN, A. M., Medical Jurisprudence.

C. B. BRAINERD, M. D., Lecturer on Diseases of Eye and Ear.

This Institution has been in successful operation for three years. It is legally incorporated and duly authorized by the State of New York to confer Medical Degrees.

The students of this College have free access to the most extensive Anatomical Museum in the country, and to the largest Hospitals in the United States, where disease in all its forms and surgical operations of every description are witnessed.

The whole fees for tickets to Lectures,	- - - - -	\$70,00
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Matriculation and Museum,	- - - - -	5,00
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Students having attended two courses in other Colleges, but none in this,	- - - - -	10,00
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Good board can be obtained in the city from \$3,00 to \$4,50 per week, with all the comforts of good room, lights and fuel.

Students desiring further information, will address Prof. I. M. Comings, Dean of the Faculty, 68 East Broadway, or H. M. Sweet, M. D., Secretary of Board, No. 16 West 13th Street, New York.

CIRCULAR

OF THE

Southern Botanico Medical College.

The Trustees of this Institution take pleasure in announcing that their arrangements for the seventeenth Annual course of Lectures are now complete, and are such as they have no doubt will meet the entire approbation of the whole Profession South.

Having, by the liberality of our Noble State, been placed beyond the reach of the hard necessities that still surround most of our sister Institutions in other States; and having at last secured the services of a Faculty which, taken as a whole, either as regards experience, talent, acquirements or perseverance, will compare most favorably with any similar body of Professors in the country; and having at the same time through the liberality of the city of Macon, and numerous friends, secured a splendid philosophical and chemical apparatus, including the necessary instruments for microscopical investigation, an anatomical museum, a large and select medical library, together with numerous pathological specimens and plates got up in a permanent form, in the best style of the art, as well as a great variety of specimens of articles composing our *Materia Medica*, as also a fine French Manikin which in many respects renders us independent of the usual anatomical materials, though even that is abundant, with ample Halls suitable for the accommodation of large classes; they consider themselves justified in saying that better facilities for the acquirement of a thorough, sound and scientific medical education are rarely if ever presented for the acceptance of the student.

The fact that hitherto the Colleges belonging to the Reformed School of medicine, have been regarded as deficient in such facilities, makes it become incumbent on the Trustees thus to dissipate that illusion and announce that their specimens and apparatus are the best that can be supplied either in London or Paris, and have been secured by a liberal outlay of money, which when necessary will not be wanting to enable this Institution to keep up with the advancement of the age.

Having labored long and assiduously to place the S. B. M. College on this permanent basis, it will be gratifying to the Trustees to know that their efforts have been appreciated by the general Profession, and they trust that a strong evidence of it will be presented on the first Monday in November next in a numerous class that will be an honor to the cause they so ardently advocate.

The following Gentlemen Comprise the Faculty.

L. BANKSTON, M. D	Prof. Physiology and Pathology.
J. T. COXE, M. D	Prof. Principles and Practice of Medicine and Therapeutics.
M. S. THOMSON, M. D.....	Prof. Obstetrics, & Diseases of Women and Children.
I. N. LOOMIS, M. D.....	Prof. Chemistry, <i>Materia Medica</i> and Botany.
I. M. COMINGS, M. D.....	Prof. Anatomy and Surgery.
O. A. LOCHRANE, Esq. M. D.....	Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence.
T. W. BRENTS, M. D.....	Demonstrator of Anatomy.

Entire fees for Instruction,.....	\$100 00
Matriculation fee (once only).....	5 00
Anatomical fee,.....	10 00

Fees payable in advance at the opening of the Session.

Candidates for Graduation are required to attend two Course of Lectures, one of which must be in this Institution; or must have attended one course of Lectures in addition to having been engaged in successful Practice from 3 to 5 years. Graduating fee \$25.

The address of Profs. Bankston, Coxe, Thomson, Loomis and Lochrane is Macon, Georgia.

Prof. Comings 68 East Broadway, N. Y., and T. W. Brents, M. D., Louisburg, Tenn. To either of whom letters of enquiry may be addressed.

THE

Journal of Medical Reform.

SEPTEMBER, 1855.

Selections.

POPULAR MEDICAL DELUSIONS.

A volume might be written upon this theme, yet the few remarks we have to offer may not be wholly unavailing. Certainly in no other matter of great importance are people so unwise and preposterous in their procedures as in the cure of their health and in the measures to which they resort for its restoration when impaired. Not content to entrust themselves to those who have devoted many years of patient and self-denying labor to acquiring a knowledge of diseases and their remedies, they rush blindly for relief into the arms of the foreign adventurer or native peripatetic, deceived by promises loud in sound, but impossible of fulfilment. The conscientious physician, whose time and means have been freely expended in fitting himself for his honorable and responsible profession, feels it to be a grievous wrong that an intelligent community should permit the impudent pretender to medical skill to move by his side, ostensibly upon the same high errand. Not only, however, is this allowed, but it is *encouraged*, and by those too, who, were similar treatment shown to them in the exercise of their occupations, would instantly complain of the injustice. Professional men, even, do not scruple, in this and in every community, to flatter and feed the quack, at the expense of honest, competent and scientific physicians. Clergymen are particularly obnoxious to this statement. From the huge humbug of homeopathy, to the most despicable of spirit-rapping and *clairvoyant* fooleries, the world runs mad for "*some new thing*." Now it is a truth which none can deny, that physicians have very rarely, almost never, deigned to utter a word of remonstrance at the folly of those who choose to employ ignorant, pretentious and unprincipled

practitioners. The aims of the profession are too high and its ministrations too sacred to admit of its members contending with such persons for that emolument which properly belongs to them alone. There is none of that blazonry and boasting, which takes the popular eye and ear, about the true physician; and he is willing to leave these means of sustenance to the miserable individuals who would certainly starve without some such specious show. Most of the medical man's duties are quietly done; his "cures" are not pamphleteered about the streets, and his "advice gratis" is almost never known, though many have it, daily.

It has always seemed to us that people in general lose sight of common sense in their management of the delicate system upon which they permit, nay even solicit, "Dr." (alas for the honor of this prefix in our days!) Any Body to come and tinker! If a watch require repairs, does the owner take it to a blacksmith, or to any one who will proceed hap-hazard to its rectification? especially, would it be entrusted to a person who had never even seen its internal mechanism—much less, carefully studied it? Quite as unreasonably do they act who place their bodies at the disposal of those who have one remedy or mode of treatment for every ailment, or who audaciously append to their names the dishonored title of "M.D.," their previous occupation having been (as in an instance lately exposed in New York) that of groom to a gentleman's horses, or something quite as Esculapian!

We could state many instances, had we room for them, in which the representations of the victims from whom money, time, and health had been filched, and confidence in the good intention of *any* medical advisers nearly destroyed, were enough to rouse the slowest pulse with indignation at such treachery, and to make those who were guilty forever hang their heads with shame, were not this feeling unknown to them. Were the accumulation of money the ruling motive or even a common one, with physicians, their best course would be to encourage quackery and favor the increase of bold and incompetent experimenters—for nearly every medical man, we venture to say, can refer to almost numberless instances of application for advice after disastrous experiences with empirics. The dishonesty of the latter is so glaring that it is wonderful they do not sooner expose themselves to their dupes. The homœopathic practitioners, who pretend a scientific basis for their absurd system, might be forgiven for their nonsense, but never for their not infrequent duplicity; it is well known that while purporting to give infinitesimal doses, they often administer powerful ones. Only a few days since, we heard the following prescription read, and which was written by a homœopathist in this city:—*R. Potassæ Iodidi, ʒ ss.; Hydrargyri Deutiodidi, grs. ij.; Aquæ Destillatæ, ʒ iv. M. Dose, one teaspoonful three times a day.* Still more abominable (when its source is considered) is this, frequently ordered (on the testimony of a highly

respectable apothecary,) Hydrocyanic acid and concentrated nitric acid, combined ; the formula and direction being such that eleven drops of prussic acid and six drops of nitric acid were given for a dose, three times a day ! Marvellous, but true. These delusions of the public are common. Another of this class of practitioners ordered, for a child, frequent teaspoonful doses of cod-liver oil and lime. How can those be trusted who thus set *truth* and their own dogmas alike aside ? We have often thought that action at law might well be taken against these medical pirates, under a charge of obtaining money "by false pretences."—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

We have always had some sympathy for the *true* follower of Hahnemann, from the fact that the high dilutions would do no injury, and nature unhindered would do more than Allopathy could ever accomplish ; but if our Homeopaths are going into the drug business as above indicated, we fear they will be denied their usual success in the treatment of disease. We are pleased to have the Boston Med. and Surgical Journal show up such marked deception. Whenever our Reformers are guilty of trespassing upon Allopathic ground and using the *poisonous agents* even according to the acknowledged formulas, we hope our Boston Argus, will give them a timely notice.—[Ed.

TREATMENT OF DYSENTERY.

BY J. R. LASSETTER, M. D.

As this is the season for the prevalence of this form of disease, and as the Typhoid form of it more particularly, has been the scourge of the Union for two or three years past, baffling the skill of almost the entire Allopathic fraternity, not the Reform, I will lay down a form of treatment, which a sufficient experience in its most aggravated phase has proven to be almost universally successful, and places it in the class of simple and easily controlled affections.

There is a deception in it which conceals from ordinary view the true indication of treatment, and therefore misleads the Physician in his diagnosis and prescription, and is the cause of its prodigious fatality. From the pain, tenesmus, and frequent efforts which the patient makes at stool and the discharge of blood and mucous from the lower portion of the bowels, the idea is created that they are "running off," and something must be done hastily to check them, or the patient will soon sink from exhaustion. Hence the nurse, or Physician goes to work by pouring down strong doses of Laudanum, or some other opiate, astringents, &c., for the purpose of locking them up ; which aids the disease instead of the vital powers of the system and in nine cases out of a hundred death is the result. This dou-

less seems very strange, and has been a stumbling block to that renowned class of Physicians which has been regarded from time immemorial, as scientific and foremost in medical erudition. But when we come to understand the actual condition of the system in this affection, a remedy is instantaneously suggested which will disarm it of its terrors and will restore the disease-stricken tenement to its pristine healthfulness and purity. In this affection, although there is great irritation and frequent morbid evacuations from the inferior extremity of the alimentary canal, known as the large intestine, there is obstinate torpidity and costiveness in the superior portion or small intestines; which is the cause of the former symptoms.

From this we naturally infer, in contradistinction from the foregoing opinion that a cathartic is indicated, and if it is employed relief is almost sure to be obtained. One of the best evidences of the correctness of this opinion of the condition of the bowels in this affection and the consequent method of treatment is, that when the Dysenteric discharges are kept up there is none, or very little of the fœces or natural contents of the intestines, and on the contrary, when a discharge of the latter is indicated the former ceases. But the most unequivocal proof of this principle is, it generally cures. The grand secret then in the treatment of this disease, is to keep the bowels open with mild and sanative cathartics. In view of this fact I lay down the following valuable prescription

Take 20 grs. Leptandria Virginica (Black Root) 10 grs. Podophyl-lum Peltatum (Mandrake,) 6 grs. Sanguinaria Canadensis (Blood Root,) mix and divide into six powders. Give one, stirred up in a little water, tea, or molasses every hour until all are taken. The concentrated preparations may be used in proportional quantities.—This will generally effect a free action from the liver and bowels, the object desired. After the operation of this dose, give a cordial prepared by taking 1 oz. Iris Versicolor (Blue Flag,) 1 oz. Hydrastis Canadensis (Golden Seal,) 1-2 oz. Podophyllum Peltatum (Mandrake,) 1-2 oz. Rhubarb, 1-4 oz. Ginger, tincture in one quart Spirits of any kind, filter and add 1 lb. crushed sugar, and 1 oz. Spt. Camphor. Give just enough to act as an aperient and the cure is generally effected in a few days. Sometimes in violent attacks of this disease the stomach becomes irritated and nausea and vomiting ensue, so as to render it exceedingly difficult to retain medicine of any description in it, and the Physician is deprived of the principal mode of administering medicine. In this condition an enema of a decoction of Lobelia will establish a reaction in the bowels and cause them to expel their contents, when the nausea and vomiting will cease, and afford an opportunity of administering the above recipe, or its equivalent. I have found these views to answer the exact purpose in this affection, and recommend them to the consideration and adoption of the whole fraternity, in the management of Dysentery; be sure and keep up a natural evacuation from the bowels.—*Southern Medical Reformer.*

IS INFLAMMATION A DISEASE?

BY PROF. WM. H. COOK.

PROF. L. E. Jones M. D., *Dear Sir*:—In the May number of the American Medical and Surgical Journal, pages 204—209, is an article from your pen, headed, “Errors taught in Medical Colleges.” You aim there to prove, 1st.,—that inflammation is disease, and not a protective, recuperative effort of the vital power; 2nd., that gangrene and mortification are results of inflammatory action.

You “believe Prof. A. Curtis, of the Physio-Medical College, of this city, [Cincinnati,] and Prof. R. S. Newton, of the Eclectic Medical Institute, are the only gentlemen, claiming respectable scientific attainments, who walk in the footsteps of Dr. Thomson,” i. e., who believe with him, that inflammation and fever are not diseases. Allow me to set you a little nearer right on this point; for, besides Prof. Curtis, there are five Professors (myself being one) in the Physio-Medical College, of Ohio, 7 in the Southern Botanico-Medical College, of Ga., and 6 in the Metropolitan Medical College of N. Y. city, all of whom have announced that a belief in the “healthy” character of Inflammation lies at the very foundation of all their teachings and practices. Besides these eighteen Professors, we find Profs. Martyn Payne, J. Jackson, J. A. Gallup, John Hunter, and many others of the most learned men of the Allopathic school, advancing and defending the same doctrine.

I fully concur with you in the opinion that “If this position be true, it should be understood and appreciated by all classes of the profession; if erroneous, it should be as widely known, that the remedy may be co-extensive with the injury inflicted by such doctrines.” And again, “if these doctrines accord with science—if they be rational and demonstrable, they should certainly be promulgated by the Professors in all Medical Colleges. If, on the contrary, they are irrational and erroneous, they should not be made to consume the limited and valuable time of medical students.” These words are a clear expression of my own sentiments.

You say that your object in presenting your communication “is to elicit truth,” and in another number of the same Journal state that “Controversy is indispensable to the cause of Truth.” Seeing, therefore, that we are agreed upon the importance of a correct opinion of what Inflammation *is*, and that we hold most diverse views on the matter, I propose to you, that we enter into an amicable discussion of the question. You may, if you wish, place yourself upon the affirmative, by stating the subject, “Is Inflammation a disease?” or, you may give me the affirmative by stating it, “Is Inflammation a sanative, health-restoring effort of the vital force?” In the next, or August number of my paper (Physio Medical Recorder) I will review your above mentioned article, and if you accede to my proposi-

tion, all your articles will there be published in full, provided that mine be also regularly published in the American Medical and Surgical Journal.—*American Medical and Surgical Journal.*

Original Communications.

FOOD.

BY J. B. SPIERS, M. D.

IN a former article it was stated that our bodies were formed anew once in seven years, from the food we eat.

Look at that infant child, just beginning to eat for himself, and no longer dependant on his mother's breast for support. Weigh him and he would perhaps weigh twenty five pounds. Let him eat and grow, and he will finally weigh one hundred and sixty pounds. Where, now, did that extra weight come from? Most certainly from the food he has consumed. His food, then, has built up his body; has all passed through his mouth, down his throat, and into his stomach.

Now, how many times have you swallowed yourself? How many times have you been in your own mouth, down your own throat and into your own stomach? Just divide the number of years of age you are by seven, and you have the answer. If you are twenty-one years of age then you have swallowed yourself three times. And, now, in this view of the subject, ought we not to be convinced of the importance of our diet in reference to what we swallow.

Let a person, when he is about to eat or drink, just stop one moment, and ask himself the question, would I like to have my body formed out of such an article as I am now about to eat? And is the article itself perfectly free from all disease, and in a sound, healthy condition? Has it not been injured or spoiled since it was put by for use, or before?

A person who would have a healthy body should use sound articles of diet. "For whatever a man soweth that shall he reap." If he eats diseased food he must assuredly expect an unsound body, just as certainly as he would expect a rotten house by using unsound timbers in building it.

But few persons would be so unwise as to build a house for themselves and families out of decaying materials. How inconsistent, then, to use diseased or indifferent materials to build a house for the soul to live in. But is not this often done, both from the animal and vegetable kingdoms? Is not a great deal of the disease among the poorer classes in towns owing to their eating tainted and injured meat, and other inferior articles of diet, merely because they can be

bought cheaper? And is it not the case sometimes, even among the wealthy, and in taverns and boarding houses, that spoiled meat is cooked in some way or other to disguise its real state, and so seasoned and spiced up that it is eaten? Look to that, ye lovers of hash, sausage, mincepies, &c. And if you knew the history of the milk you sometimes drink, I guess you would let it pass; for there can be no doubt but it is often the case that,

"Ye are more nice than wise,

Ye have better stomach than eyes,"

or else your stomach would not be very apt to contain what you sometimes put into it.

I hope that my simplicity of style and plainness of illustration will be pardoned, as I wish every one that may chance to read to understand.

Petersburg, Va., June, 1855.

ALCOHOL AS A MEDICINE.

No. 1.

BY PROF. I. M. COMINGS.

NUTRITIOUS food is a fuel which supports the human frame, and without food we should soon die. Health, then, depends on the quantity and quality of our food; any *excess* in this species of fuel, is as *injurious* as a corresponding *deficiency*, if not more so. If we urge the powers of digestion beyond their due limits, we find the physical energies are consumed by a sort of internal conflagration. Now, it is a physiological fact, that all the functions of our system, are controlled by the action of the nervous organization.—Hence any substance taken into the system, whether it be solid or liquid, which excites the nerves, will also produce a corresponding action upon every organ.

The great body of our physicians have not made a distinction between a *stimulant* and an *irritant*, these two words are confounded, and hence the continued use of alcoholic medicinal preparations. We define a pure *stimulant* to be that, which will increase or arouse the vital powers of the system to a healthy natural action, and no more than that. We define an *irritant*, to be that which will excite the organs *above* a natural action, that will increase the pulse, so that they beat more frequently than in health. This may be a distinction only in degree, yet, if we apply it to certain articles of medicine, we may see the force of our reasoning.

Suppose the pulse of a debilitated patient is down to 50 or 60 and we administer an alcoholic stimulant, this immediately excites the system and raises the action of the heart to 80 or 100, when the healthy pulse was 70. Here is an *unnatural* excitement and the

powers of the patient will fall, as soon as the irritating cause has ceased to operate, just as far *below*, as it was raised *above* the normal state. While therefore *temporary* relief may be the result, yet debility must succeed. If now, this patient is stimulated with African pepper, or any pure stimulant, it will be found that the pulse will not rise above its healthy beat of 70 per minute, and hence there will be no sinking or debility consequent upon over action or irritation.

But this will appear more evident, by giving these articles to a perfectly healthy temperance man. Behold the excitement produced by the brandy, see the unnatural flash of the eye, the acceleration of motion, the flow of words, and so on to intoxication, and then witness the stupor and depression which corresponds to the over excitement produced. Such are the irritating effects of Alcohol. Now let the same healthy man drink freely of Capsicum tea, very strong, and a large quantity, which is a powerful *stimulant*, and we see no unnatural excitement in the system, no increase of the pulse, no symptoms that indicate irritation, and hence we have no debility and depression. The former is an irritating poison, the latter a pure stimulant that acts in harmony with the laws of life.

It is no use to say, that alcohol can be administered in *small* doses, and as the *menstruum* of some drug, and thus be *harmless*. The irritation is there, and will produce its unhappy effects, and we care not how skilful the physician, he cannot know the peculiar susceptibility of the patient to such irritation. But the danger stops not here, this unnatural irritant may so impress the weakened and excited nervous system as to create the morbid longing which will always cry, give, give, and never be satisfied.

We believe a great responsibility rests upon the medical practitioner at the present crisis of the Temperance Reform.

We are prepared to take the ground, that no alcoholic preparations should be used except in *rare cases*, where the vital powers are very much reduced, and where the patient is "ready to perish" as the Scriptures have it; and even then, let it be used in the *smallest quantities*, and with the *greatest caution*, as opium and other narcotic poisons are used.

Our reasons for these rather *ultra notions* may be evident from the ideas we have expressed above about *stimulants* and *irritants*, for it is only when the powers of nature are far below a normal state, that pure stimulants will not do all that is necessary; indeed there is great reason to believe that in every case, where nature has not been greatly abused, that the stimulant will accomplish all that the alcohol will.

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN.

BY MRS. LYDIA JANE PIERSON.

DEAR DOCTOR COMINGS,—One would really suppose, from the array of opposition, ridicule, contempt and horror, evinced by large numbers of writers and speakers on the subject, that a thorough knowledge of the human frame, its functions, diseases and necessities, degrades, unsexes, and renders woman a monster. What inconsistency! If woman is by nature as pure and modest as man, why should a knowledge which ennobles him, deprave her? To whom is a thorough knowledge of humanity, from the embryo germ to the extreme of age, through all its phases, necessary, if not to her, who embosoms the germ, nurses the infant, rears the child, counsels the man, and sustains the feeble form of age? Attending always at the bedside of sickness and pain, performing always the most irksome duties of the sick room, why should she be ignorant of the cause, the seat, and identity of the disease, the issue of which depends in a great measure upon her judicious nursing? It is utterly impossible that any case should occur, wherein woman might attend the other sex as physician or surgeon, so utterly and outrageously revolting to every idea and unprostituted sense of decency or propriety, as those in which daily and hourly women is subjected to the presence and manipulations of male doctors. And she, in her ignorance, is taught to believe that this attendance and interference is necessary to the preservation of her life, while in ninety-nine cases out of every hundred, any *assistance* so rendered is highly injurious. Nature, while unswayed or undepraved, is abundantly able to perform all her own work: but woman is taught to believe that she *must* be assisted by the doctor.

Where is the justness or consistency of the old established custom, of teaching the mysteries of maternity and embryo life to boys, who can have no need of such knowledge, and keeping woman, the sole mother, in utter ignorance of all such matters? Is it possible to compute the life-long sufferings, the imbecility, the idiocy, the insanity, which have been the deplorable results of woman's ignorance of herself, and of her mission and liabilities? And yet she, upon whom depends the physical and mental perfection of the whole human race, must not know how to preserve her own health, or in what manner or by what means, the unborn man may be affected, so that he shall prove a burden, or a blessing to himself and to the world.

And when the poor child, who has been flattered or urged into wedlock, finds something unusual in her sensations, and would like to know "wherefore she is thus," there is no learned and medical woman to whom she may unbosom herself, and of whom she can confidently ask advice. How can she bring her surmisings, and de-

scribe her condition to a man, probably a stranger, though he may be titled Doctor. If she is a modest, sensitive woman, she will endure every thing, even unto death, rather than so outrage herself.

And to this bitter alternative what multitudes of women are reduced. I have heard many a young prospective mother say, "I would not mind the suffering if I only could get through it without a doctor." Poor thing, the doctor was wholly an unnecessary evil, God made woman and appointed her mother of all living ; but he did not create and appoint an M. D. to assist him in his work.

If woman possessed the knowledge which is her right, she would not marry, being deformed in organism, or having a weak or tainted constitution, so as to incapacitate her for bearing or properly maturing children, and thus giving herself to an inevitable death of the utmost agony, or burden community with a race of half alive children, to suffer through a brief existence and repeat the error of their parents. Why do consumptive and scrofulous persons marry, and entail their misery upon generations to come ? Do they not know that they are sinning against those who shall inherit their maladies, and curse the day of their birth ?—Again, if woman possessed a proper knowledge of disease, and the means of preventive and cure, what multitudes of children would be reared up to healthy and useful maturity, who now perish in infancy, or drag out a few years of troubled and troublesome existence. Every woman, every mother and mistress of a family, should have a good and true knowledge of physiology, and of medicine. This is a truth so obvious that no rational creature can question it. But as this cannot at present be, in the name of all that is decent and useful, let such women as feel it their duty to become learned as physicians or surgeons, be encouraged, and honored as benefactors, not only of their own sex, but of generations of men yet to appear upon the earth. It has been urged that woman does not possess sufficient mental and physical power to perform certain terrible surgical operations. Who are the sufferers under these operations, are not many of them women ? And do they not with marvellous fortitude endure the torture and the knife ? but probably these female patients, and their woman attendants, are not present at these operations. Many of our contemporaries seem to imagine that if the doors of learning, and the avenues to the professions were once opened to woman, the whole sex would rush to the various shrines, so that the time honored places of seamstress, nurse, housekeepers and household drudge, or domestic slave, would become vacated, utterly deserted ! Has woman then so much greater proclivity for science, than man ?—These opportunities have been his for ages. He has been solicited, urged, bribed and coerced, yet we still have plenty of farmers, masons, blacksmiths, shoemakers, tailors, and all manner of mechanics. I presume that not more than one man in the hundred is willing to devote himself to abstruse science, or to follow as a busi-

ness for life, any learned profession. Very probably, if woman enjoyed every facility and encouragement, in common with her brother, the percentage of scientific and professional women, would not greatly exceed that of men. Very few of the male sex, possess natural abilities of a high order, as is evidenced by the small proportion, who with all their exclusive advantages, have attained eminence, in the temple of Genius. Perhaps the proportion will prove nearly the same with the female. Why then all this alarm, declamation and depreciation? Does it not begin and end in a gross and deplorable ignorance of the physiological, and psychological constitution of the human race.

For the sake of modesty, virtue, and humanity then, let every woman who may be willing to study and practice medicine, be encouraged, applauded and assisted. We cannot have too many female doctors, accouchers, and surgeons, until such time as a general knowledge of hygiene, and healing shall render the attendance of professed doctors, nearly or altogether, unnecessary.

Adrian Mich., August, 1855.

BAD MANAGEMENT IN MEASLES.

BY J. B. SPIES, M. D.

I have heard of many bad cases of measles and of deaths produced by this disease; but I have come to the conclusion, from my own observation and experience, that the bad cases are generally the result of bad management.

This disease broke out in my family just about three years ago. The first case was a *bad case*, and was evidently made so by bad management. It was the case of our only daughter, who was then about four years of age. When the eruption was fairly out and she appeared to be getting on pretty well, on one occasion she was wrapped up rather warm, (for it was in the month of June,) and while in quite a profuse perspiration, she arose from her bed and went immediately in a situation where the cool breezes made her feel pleasant, and there fell asleep. Her mother, considering the measles to be so mild a disease, did not prevent her from indulging in this course as often as her inclination led her to do so, as the weather was quite warm. From this time she rather declined, until in a few days, a most violent dysentery came on, and you may rest assured we then found something to do, and that "an ounce of prevention" was worth several pounds of cure. For three days we nearly dispaired of life, but finally she recovered. She has had at times since a considerable deafness. Whether it resulted from the bad management in measles, I am not fully prepared to say, but think it most probable it did. It is scarcely necessary to add that

the other members of my family got along very well with measles! I have never found any difficulty in managing measles where my directions were followed.

Be sure and let the person be well taken care of, from the commencement until about ten days after the eruption makes its appearance on the skin. Give sufficient stimulants to keep it out well. If unfavorable symptoms should present themselves, I should give an emetic of Lobelia Inflata, combined with suitable stimulants, yet I have not found it necessary in one case in twenty, when other things were properly attended to. Some advise giving a purge every day or two, but I do not believe in giving many purges in measles. I think Lobelia Inflata emetics will be preferable; yet I have found decided benefit by giving a dose of Leptandra just after the measles had fully appeared on the surface—say about two or three days after their first appearance—and, at the same time, keep the system well supported by stimulants.

Some advise a dose of worm medicine about the time the eruption is disappearing, especially if there should be a rise of fever about that time. It is not my intention, in the above, to give the full treatment of measles, but only a few hints, which I hope will be beneficial.

Petersburg, Va., June, 1855.

OBSTINATE CONSTIPATION WITH MECHANICAL OCCULTION OF THE INTESTINAL TUBE.

BY HERBERT FEARN, M. D.

SOME fifteen months ago I had a case of the above named affection; the subject of it was of rather intemperate habits. His bowels had been constipated for a fortnight; but the immediate cause of his applying to me, was his having taken a considerable quantity of a variety of liquors, which seemed to have made him sensitive to the precarious condition of his system. The symptoms he most complained of were great pain in the bowels and sickness at the stomach.

The treatment pursued was the following: numerous injections of Lobelia Inflata, Semina, Capsici and Ulmus Fulva; twenty grains each of the first two, and sufficient of the latter to make it slightly lubricating; warm water, one quart. Cathartics were faithfully tried and vapor baths, together with powerfully stimulating liniments rubbed on immediately after, seemed to be only of temporary avail. To excite the bowels to action seemed impossible, and after trying two days and a night the most thorough treatment I could bring to bear, my patient died.

His death, I think, was much accelerated by drinking a great

quantity of cold water during my absence of about two hours ; for he was considerably relieved when I left. He had no pain when he drank it, but was thirsty, and in spite of the remonstrances of his wife, he would have it : after that he seemed to "sink away."

About two weeks ago, (July 23rd,) a man between thirty and forty years of age came for aid, with a similar affliction. He said he had been constipated in his bowels for a long time, but that for four weeks or more he had been unable to get a passage—that he had considerable pain in his bowels, and had no appetite for food, but could "drink forever"—that he was in this condition when he went to Liverpool, and remained so during the whole voyage without an evacuation. When he arrived there (went on one of the Collin's Steamships) he took two ounces of Castor oil ; that not having the desired effect, he took two ounces of "Epsom salts," the result of which was a few scybalœ came away, in his own language, "hardened lumps of feces."

On his return to the United States, not having a discharge while on the passage, he again tried the salts to no purpose.

Treatment.—He was ordered some cathartic pills ; they not having the desired effect, the following was prescribed, with the same result, except having an increase of the pain :

R Podophylline, Leptandrin, Capsici, a. a. four grains ; Rhei pulvis eight grains, to be taken at once.

For two days he struggled along under severe pain, until at last he had to give up and consider himself sick, for previous to this he had kept at his ordinary business.

At this time his countenance was a perfect picture of agony. The following was then prescribed :

Enemas composed of Lobelia Inflata, Semina, Capsici and Cypripedium pulvis, a. a. twenty grains, water quite warm, three pints, thrown up at once. Four injections were given in about two hours and a half, the effect of which was to give him a thorough evacuation by emesis, and considerable relief to the bowels, so much that he went to bed and slept three hours, then the pains returned with increased energy. At this time he got two ounces of oil, followed by the same quantity of salts, against my orders, all of which served to aggravate his difficulty.

Recourse was again had to the enemas ; they were continued every half hour till four were administered, after which they were given every hour till about twelve o'clock at night. The herb of the Lobelia was substituted for the seed, and several times Aloes Socotrina was substituted, in view of its asserted power in exciting the lower part of the colon. At three o'clock, P. M., he took four pills of the following : Lob. Inflata, Semina, Podophylline, Capsici, and extract Valerianna Officinalis.

They relieved him considerable in connexion with the enemas, and at seven o'clock, P. M., two more were administered, through

which means the pains were considerably abated, till at twelve o'clock, P. M., he had the first passage, which was followed by another injection and numerous passages of scybalœ and other material—the greater bulk was the first named, however—and after a hard night's work at that business, he was considerably better in the morning; in fact, he got up ear'y and went about his business, after taking some tonic medicine. I will add that friction was used, alone and combined with stimulants, to the abdomen, which, however, was of very little use, except momentarily affording relief. The feet were bathed in mustard and water for haif an hour, in the middle of the afternoon, which had a similar effect. He had as much bland tea as he could drink.

Some may suppose that the first enemas were too large, but great constriction was to be overcome, so that the impacted feces might pass. And the fact that they rendered relief, not only by the qualities of the medicines, but by the mechanical distention of the intestinal tube.

Mr. Editor, I would like to hear, through the Journal, from some more experienced person, of any plan that will be more successful, or will in any way abridge the suffering of the patient, or afford more immediate relief.

203 Canal Street, New York.

MAMMARY ABSCESS.

BY H. L. CROSBY, M. D.

IN our last we reported a case of Abscess that the Allopaths pronounced incurable, and we now proceed to relate another cured by us after the best talent in this city had given it up to die.

Mrs. C. L.—, Cherry street, was stabbed in the breast in two places. These wounds could never be properly healed, in consequence of the instrument being poisoned, as was supposed by some of the Hospital Surgeons. Mrs. L. afterwards became a mother and an extensive mammary abscess was the consequence. It broke in nine different places. For three years she suffered most excruciating pain, spent about \$400 in physician's fees and receiving advice and prescriptions from the first doctors in the city. She spent three months in the City Hospital, and then six months more at Bellevue, under the science and skill of these distinguished Surgeons, when they recommended the knife as the only remedy and death as the consequence of her refusal. She left the hospital and we took charge of her case.

We commenced on the 26th October, 1853, the treatment of this case, and although we considered it somewhat difficult; yet by a persevering course of Botanic treatment, with alteratives, vegetable

poultices, syrups, &c. We cured this patient in three months, sound and well, and she has remained well to this day. In healing up the wounds in this case, we found the poplar salve very beneficial.

433 Pearl Street, New York.

Editorial.

ALCOHOL AS A STIMULANT.

In the July number of the Scalpel, that fearless advocate of reform in Medicine, edited by E. H. Dixon, M. D., we find the following remarks on "the use and abuse of stimulants," which are somewhat novel in their way, and show the editor to have some correct ideas of *irritants* upon the human system, although the great error here, as well as with all our old school authors, is the confounding of pure stimulants and irritants. They make no distinction between an agent that acts physiologically and one that acts pathologically, or one that acts healthily and one that is unhealthy in its action. There are agents that act naturally, and there are those that act unnaturally, or that derange the natural and healthy action of the human organism.

Now Dr. Dixon ought to know that a pure stimulant will not produce the effects he assigns to Alcohol and opium, and if he had seen the happy effects of Cayenne and Lobelia which are witnessed by the Reformed Physicians of our times, we feel quite sure that he would somewhat modify his views of the value of alcohol as a stimulant, and not consider that its grand results play so important a part in the progress of civilization. But here is the extract.

"I cannot stop to reason on the results of alcohol among men as a whole, but barely remark, that among the ruder nations it weakens and exterminates them; while among the higher forms of the race, it goads its passions, sets him in motion and on fire, and plays in its grand results an important part in the progress of civilization.

"About one third of the human race eat opium, and its deep and terrible effects on the brain, as well as those of alcohol, bring into direct action certain portions of the brain, whose activity and powers having been thus brought into actual existence in the outer world, are transmitted to posterity. The action of these powerful stimuli on the nervous mass evolves new forces, new life, new thoughts, new faculties, which before were dormant and unknown—just as the acid acting on the zinc and the copper evolves new

forces from the metal, which till now were unsuspected. Alcohol acts on the base of the brain, goading its powers into life, and those forces once in action, react on the moral and intellectual regions of the brain. This view of the results of stimulants does not preclude the fact that vast evil may grow out of its use; but this philosophy of its effects is the only one that explains to me the instinct of all men for narcotics and stimulants. All the forces of nature evolve in their movements evil as well as good—the force which rolls the globe on its axis may rend nature by an earthquake and engulf a city. The good effects, if they could be seen distinctly, even of these vile drinks, would doubtless outweigh the evil; but as evil is the outward and most glaring result, we are horrified, as we should be, at the ruin that is wrought by intemperance. We can comprehend fully the evil resulting to a family by an utter prostration of the parent by stimulants, but we cannot so easily demonstrate the good effects resulting to individuals or nations by a happy transmission of brilliant powers caused by the excitation of the parental brain, when such stimulus has reached its highest point of allowable intensity. This is a novel theory, but it is the only one that ‘ vindicates the ways of God to man’ in the permission of such evils as alcohol and opium.”

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE AND DR. GREEN.

THERE can be no greater evidence of the “old fogyish” or conservative character of Allopathy than is manifested in the treatment of Prof. Green of the N. Y. Medical College by the Committee of the Academy of Medicine, who were appointed to report on the subject of the catheterism of the trachea and bronchi.

There are certain physicians in this city who pursue the same course towards Dr. Green, that was pursued by the medical savans in the time of Harvey and Jenner, and notwithstanding it is more than ten years since Dr. G. proved most satisfactorily that the probang could be introduced into the trachea, yet at the meeting of the Academy a few weeks ago a certain *Dr. McNulty* stated that he made many dissections, and investigated the subject thoroughly. He was prepared to lay his investigations before the Academy, and with their permission, he would do so. The gentleman then proceeded to demonstrate, with considerable volubility, the minute anatomy and physiology of the larynx, from a diagram, and also a preserved specimen of the parts, he had prepared for the occasion.

From the fact that nature had placed a greater number of muscles to close the glottis than to open it, he concluded she never intended it to be entered.

And from the fact that the base of the tongue and the glottis were supplied by branches of the same nerve, he said it was impossible to take the parts by surprise and pass through the glottis, for the moment the tongue is depressed preparatory to the operation, the parts take the alarm and close, so that it is impossible to enter the larynx at all.^{DOB} He had used the sponge probang a great many times, and used to think he passed it into the trachea "pop goes the weasel right straight along." But since he had made these investigations, he was convinced that he never did it.

Here is a display of bigotry and blindness equal to the days of Gallilio, Harvey and Jenner. While every Surgeon in even limited practice is called upon often to remove foreign bodies that accidentally slip into the trachea, it is a most absurd idea that a physician of the slightest pretensions should attempt by a drawing, before so learned a body of medical men to prove the falsity of what every member had seen with his own eyes, or had the most indubitable evidence to believe to be fact.

While we may smile at the bigotry of Dr. McNulty, yet we can but note one of his arguments against the practice of Dr. Green, he says "Nature never intended the catheter to enter the air passages." We feel like proposing the Dr. a few questions in reference to the "intentions of nature" in other practices which are in daily vogue with him. Did nature intend that the veins should be opened by the lancet, when she has provided the millions of pores to act as the depository organs of this precious fluid? Did she intend that the corrosive poison or the deadly narcotic should destroy the delicate tissues or stupify the nervous energy? Does nature, weakened by disease, demand the depleting process so common in the practice of Allopathy? Did nature ever intend that a course of treatment should ever be instituted to cure a sick man, that would invariably make a well man sick? These queries answered may assist Dr. McNulty to settle the points of difference between himself and Dr. Green.

In reference to the utility or propriety of the injection of nitrate of silver into the glottis and trachea, we have our doubts, but of the *fact* that Dr. Green and hundreds of others have introduced tubes beyond the glottis into the air passages we think cannot be denied. If nitrate of silver is found in some cases to act beneficial, we feel quite sure that some of our vegetable astringents and escharotics will prove far more efficacious being more natural in their action and not disorganizing.

The Academy discuss the subject next month, when it is probable the report will be adopted.

MORPHIA AND LOBELIA.

How hard it is to break away from old practices and prejudices. We are continually led to make this exclamation from the frequent accounts we see in our Eclectic papers, and often in the old School Journals, where they are continually using our medicines, but in combination with the poisonous agents of Allopathy. Take the example of "Treatment and cure of Tetanus," by Prof. Kent in the August number of the Syracuse Journal. The compound Tincture of Lobelia (3d Prep.) both per ani et oris, and "in less than three minutes we had the pleasure to see the whole muscular system relaxed &c." Now this will invariably be the consequence of Lobelia in this form of disease, but as Prof. K. is a Chronothermalist, he must follow up this treatment with quinine and Morphia, and although there was subsequent appearance of traumatic spasms, yet we find the quinine and morphia were used instead of the Lobelia, and thus credit was given to their agents, so that the preconceived notions of periodicity could be substantiated..

It is one great objection to our allies who leave the ranks of Allopathy that they will still adhere to many of the notions and practices of the Old School which are entirely obnoxious to the principles which govern the true Medical Reformer. If Prof. Kent will throw his morphia and other poisons to the dogs, (although it would be a pity to even poison them,) he would find that Lobelia alone and judiciously combined with our harmless tonics and stimulants would fulfil every indication required in the treatment of disease.

Medical Reform can never be advanced so long as this *halfway mixed practice* is in vogue, and we even have our doubts whether our cause, or our best interests are subserved by the addition to our numbers of those who will thus join the bane to the antidote and prevent our remedies from being so efficacious as they would otherwise be without this combination. *Opium and Lobelia !!* Who does not know that the stupifying effects of the former, will more or less militate against the action of the latter ?

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“UNION OF JOURNALS.”

We did not think our *little* friend Cook of the Physio Medical Recorder was really so *rapacious*. Why he even offers to swallow at "one gulp," the Worcester Journal and our own, and we do not know how many more. There seemed to be some little hesitancy in eating us all up so unceremoniously, as certain *provisos*, intervened to prevent the catastrophe.

If there is to be any swallowing, we think our own humble sheet has claims far superior to those advanced by our Cincinnati colleague.

POISONING BY GELSEMINUM.

In the July number of the Memphis Medical Recorder, there is a case reported of death from taking two ounces of the tincture of the Gelsemium Sempervirens. The symptoms were an inability to open the eyes, fullness and giddiness of the head, dryness of the throat, a numbness and partial paralysis of the arms, an inability to swallow, and nausea, with most of the symptoms of narcotic poisoning from an overdose of stramonium or belladonna. Death ensued a little over three hours after the tincture was taken. The application of the stomach pump afforded no relief to the unfortunate sufferer.

This account given us by the editor of the Memphis Recorder may be somewhat exaggerated, but the account seems to be a straight forward statement of facts.

Per contra ; we read in the last number of the Physio Medical Recorder the following account from a physician. "I took in one hour and a half three drachms tincture Gelsemium, which completely relaxed me, but without any further injury. It seems that Gelsemium had no poisonous effects in my case, it entirely cured me and did not leave a trace of the fever."

We are anxious to hear from our *friends* on the use of this article. We can put very little reliance in any reports from those who may be interested in robbing the Reformed profession of any important discovery that may be made in medicine.

When is Dr. Austin of Georgia going to favor us with the account of his experiments on animals? We have seen the most sudden and perfect cure of one fever patient with two doses (half teaspoonful) in two hours. We want facts and from disinterested parties.

THE SKIN AND MUCOUS MEMBRANES.

DR. HITCHCOCK, in the New Hampshire Journal of Medicine says, "that in a state of physiological excitement or increased natural function of the skin, the mucous membrane is correspondingly diminished in function and vice versa, and also when either is pathologically excited the other is sure to take on the same kind of morbid action. This principle is fundamental and should never be lost sight of in prescribing for cutaneous diseases."

A most important fact is here brought to view and one that we have often urged with the greatest perseverance upon the attention of our students, viz : The intimate sympathy and anatomical relation that exists between the skin and the mucous surfaces. Sponging and bathing the skin with

medicated liquids will often be found the most efficacious and speedy means to relieve the alimentary canal of diseased action.

A moist skin, and healthy cutaneous action are the first symptoms of convalescence, and any treatment that will induce this state, will tend to relieve internal derangements of every character. The success of Hydro-pathy depends on this very action, and when we add our physiological remedial agents to this practice, we far excel the Water Cure doctors who do not use our remedies.

ALCOHOL AS A MEDICINE.

WE commence in this number a series of articles on this subject, and shall continue them for some months rather than fill a dozen pages on this subject in one number of our paper. We claim for them a careful perusal, for we cannot but look upon the medicinal use of Alcohol as the greatest obstruction to the cause of total abstinence. We have the same objections to the use of Alcohol, as we have to the use of other narcotics. We propose to examine this subject in all its bearings, and while we would not wish to enter the ranks as a *political* advocate of the Maine Law, yet in a medical point of view, we can discuss it with perfect freedom.

From the position of many medical men at this time, who seem to be arraigned against the operation of the Maine Law, it is well for us to examine the subject and see if Lager Bier is "really useful in dyspeptic and hysterical cases, during convalescence from disease and for nursing mothers," as is contended by a distinguished New Jersey temperance physician. Our profession has a great responsibility in reference to this subject. Let us beware how we stand.

REFORMED PHYSICIANS WANTED.

OUR friend Burson writing us from Illinois says, "there are thousands of good locations for well qualified practitioners of our School in the West, in fact one can scarcely fail any where. Pekin and Peoria are flourishing cities in this State, and they are both destitute. Cannot you send a good practitioner to each?"

There are scores of young men in the eastern states who are looking to the great West, as a future home. No better inducements can be presented than to attend the Lectures in the Metropolitan and thus be prepared to enter this inviting field of usefulness, distinction and wealth.

NOT EXACTLY "SO."

In response to our enquiry in our last number, Prof. Buzzell informs us that there are five Reformed Medical Physicians in Portland, that with three of them he has frequently met in consultation and would not refuse to consult with a fourth if he were solicited to do so; but with the one who probably wrote the letter to us, he has refused to consult, for "the plain reason that he does not have confidence in him either as a man or physician, and if he belonged to the Allopathic profession should treat him the same way; his being a Reformed Physician did not effect his decision in the least."

In reference to his connexion with the Allopathic Association, the Doctor informs us that he did join it "under a protest of non observance of that rule which refused consultation with those not members, and that as soon as he was elected Professor in the Eclectic College of Pa., he requested a dismission from the Association, judging it to be consistant to do so, and he is not *now* a member, although the Association of Portland is an organization not to be despised or ashamed of."

This is all right and we are pleased that our friend Buzzell occupies the position he does. He is not now identified with the Allopaths, but on true Eclectic ground.

We have many broken down Allopaths or young aspirants for favor, who fail to take the position in the Old School, which their own vanity leads them to expect, that often, for the loaves and fishes, or for some distinction which they think they may gain, come over to the popular ranks of Medical Reform, and at the same time desire to be reckoned as possessing superior knowledge of both systems. It is such men that we desire to hold up to the execration of the Reformed Medical Profession.

Professor Buzzell has thus relieved himself from the suspicion, which the note from our Portland correspondent laid him under, and his position is now well known. Success to all Allopaths who will thus show their true colors.

YELLOW FEVER IN NORFOLK AND VICINITY.

THE mortality attendant on this fever in Virginia, is really alarming. We have the strongest confidence in the success which has attended our Reformed Practice in this disease. In Savannah it proved superior to all other methods of practice, and it has shown itself in the West Indies to be so efficacious as to displace almost all other practices. We hope to hear a

good report from Drs. Nash, and Cannon, and Snead. Let a full account of every case treated be kept and the exact mortality noted, so that the per centage may appear.

Although this is one of the most serious forms of disease we have, and one that often baffles the skill of the most experienced physician, yet from all the accounts which we have been able to collect, it has most happily yielded to our remedial agents, and the mortality has been one hundred per cent less, than that of the Allopathic practice.

OUR EXCHANGES.

THE MEMPHIS MEDICAL RECORDER has just commenced the fourth volume upon an enlarged and improved plan. We are much pleased with this Allopathic Journal, for it is "restricted to no particular and exclusive doctrines, but aims at professional and scientific progress, upon the universal platform of equality among men in the cultivation of letters, and in the prosecution of scientific researches."

We notice a disposition to give more prominence to our vegetable remedies, than is usually found among Old School Journals. Terms, \$2.00 per annum, in advance. Address A. O. Merrill, M. D., Editor, Memphis, Tenn.

THE MIDDLE STATES MEDICAL REFORMER for August, contains a paper read before the Middle States Reformed Medical Society, by J. S. Prettyman, M. D., which is one of the best articles on Epidemic Dysentery which we have ever read. The pathology and symptoms as well as treatment of this prevalent disease are most admirably expressed. We hope our Southern friends will see that this Essay is put in their forthcoming work on the Practice of Medicine. They will hardly find a better description, or prepare one more worthy of preservation.

By the way, the types that make up the pages of the Reformer need a new face ; such *good matter* needs a *better dress*.

EXCERPTA.

WHAT IS QUACKERY.—One of our weekly contemporaries commences an article on quacks in the following trenchant style :—"Quacks are generally an infernal set of scoundrels. Nine-tenths of them ought to be in the Penitentiary—if anybody ought to be there, which we doubt. How is it that these ruffians have so long escaped newspaper criticism?" To which echo answers, "by advertising liberally." But, what is a quack, and what

is quackery? The dictionary says that a quack is an ignorant pretender, and according to this definition, quacks are a very numerous class of impostors. But what is generally meant by a quack is a man who sells medicines which have not been sanctioned by the regular faculty, or included in the pharmacopeia.

Dr. Porter, U. S. A., in an article published in the American Journal of the Medical Sciences, on the yellow fever, cited the opinion of Dr. Louis Valentin, first physician to the French Army at St Domingo, in 1803, that the yellow fever is not contagious, as he never observed it to be communicated to the medical men who were engaged in the charge of the sick, and in examining their bodies after death; nor did the clothes and furniture that had been used about persons dead of the fever, though neither aired, washed, nor fumigated, communicate the infection to others. Dr. Valentin attributed its origin wholly to local circumstances.

Dr. Marshall Hall, in his Journal of Health says, that it is owing mainly, to their constant out-door exercise, that the elevated classes in England reach a patriarchal age, notwithstanding their habits of high living, of late hours, of wine-drinking, and many other health-destroying agencies. The deaths of their generals, their lords, their earls, and their dukes, are chronicled almost every week at 70, 80, and 100 years. Their exercise, as well as their disposition to take the world easy, adds many years to their lives.

CHOLERA. In cholera, the warmth of the body has been known to sink as low as sixty-seven degrees. The state of the system in this disease is that of collapse, a condition not dissimilar to that of nervous lesions, and from loss of blood. The body is cold and the change effected in the circulating fluid by respiration goes on, but the temperature of the breath, tongue, and surface, is equally depressed. The consequence of such collapses or nervous exhaustion is, that the living body is unable to maintain its natural warmth, though the carbon and hydrogen of the lungs is oxidized in the usual manner, and the product evolved.

Dr. Knapp, of Covington, Ky., has recently published an essay on the cause and nature of cholera, including also its cure and prevention. He discards all previously conceived notions on the subject, and attributes the attacks of cholera to the causes which produce scorbutic affections. He is led to this conclusion from the fact that the winters and springs preceding the appearance of cholera, as an epidemic, were marked by severe cold, which caused an abridgement of the supplies of succulent vegetables as articles of food, thus giving rise to scurvy in its most virulent form.

A In England, it has been common to pronounce certain medical words of Greek origin, with a hard *c*, like *k*, as in hydrocephalus, ascites, &c. In the United States, a difference of opinion and practice has prevailed, with an increasing tendency to adopt the *c* soft, and this has become more common since the publication of Webster's dictionary. Recently, at a close of a trial in one of the English courts, a discussion arose among the magnates of the wig and gown respecting the word "pharmaceutical," which resulted in the adoption of the *c* soft. This we presume, settles the question for medical men in both countries.

A ERYSIPelas.—The New Haven Palladium says: "We are able to record another case of the complete cure of erysipelas, by the simple application of the raw cranberries pounded fine. The patient was a young lady, one side of whose face had become so much swollen and inflamed that the eye had become closed and the pain excessive. A poultice of cranberries was applied, and after several changes the pain ceased, the inflammation subsided, and in the course of a couple of days every vestige of the disease had disappeared. The case occurred in the family of one of the editors of the Palladium, and we can therefore vouch for the truth."

A DR. GRISCOM, of New York, urges, in strong terms, the necessity that the sanitary police of the city should possess a medical education. And yet, (says the doctor,) will it be believed, that the commercial metropolis of the western world, with a population rapidly approaching a million, has a sanitary police which would not only fail to be recognised as such by its name, but among the twenty-nine persons constituting it, there is—and that only by chance—but one medical man, and he with no concern in its practical prophylactic duties. With this exception, from head to foot, not a member of it probably would be able to distinguish incipient small pox from mosquito bites.

A A NEW TOOTH WASH.—The strawberry, if applied with a brush to the teeth, will remove the tartar more effectually than any dentrifrice ever invented.

A SUBSTITUTE FOR CREAM, IN TEA OR COFFEE.—Beat the white of an egg to a froth, put to it a very small lump of butter, and mix well. Then turn the coffee to it gradually, so that it may not curdle. If perfectly done, it will be an excellent substitute for cream. For tea omit the butter, using only the egg.

This might be of great use at sea, as eggs can be preserved fresh in various ways.—*Gen. Farmer.*

☞ FLY POISON WITHOUT ARSENIC.—The following preparation is much used in Europe for the destruction of flies: Quassia, eight parts; water, five hundred parts; molasses, one hundred and twenty-five parts. Boil the quassia and water ten minutes; strain and add the molasses. The preparation can easily be made by any one. Flies are attracted by this and soon killed.

☞ FRESH AIR.—Horace Mann has well said: "People who shudder at a flesh wound and a trickle of blood, will confine their children like convicts, and compel them month after month to breathe quantities of poison. It would less impair the mental and physical constitutions of children, gradually to draw an ounce of blood from their veins, during the same length of time, than to send them to breathe, for six hours in a day, the lifeless and poisoned air of some of our school-rooms. Let any man, who votes for confining children in small rooms and keeping them on stagnant air, try the experiment of breathing his own breath only four times over; and if medical aid be not on hand, the children will never be endangered by his vote afterwards."

☞ The Parisian critics have pronounced a favorable judgment of Dr. Betherand's "Medicine and Hygiene of the Arabs;" he has examined their practice, surgery, anatomical proficiency, etc. The introduction treats of the general state of medicine among the principal Mohammedan nations, and is an interesting as well as valuable contribution to general medical knowledge.

☞ The Journal de Chemie Medicale relates a case of poisoning from eating the common butter-cup. Some children were amusing themselves by making crowns of this flower, when one of them was tempted to eat some of the flowers. Violent pain, simulating colic, and all the symptoms of poisoning supervened, but fortunately the life of the child was saved.

OUR readers will be pleased again to see that Mrs. Pierson has favored us with the contributions of her pen. She is more than welcome, for we are not alone in considering her as one of our most forcible writers, and her views of "Professional Women," will receive a hearty response from many hearts among both sexes. It is such outspoken words that will break down the prejudices of the community, and gain for woman her just educational privileges.

A young girl in Pawtucket was lately found inhaling the odor of chloroform liniment, which had been left within her reach. It was taken from

her, but some of its contents were spilled, and she lay down with her face upon the saturated bed-clothes, and was found half an hour afterwards dead.

M. Flourens, a celebrated French writer, says that all the larger animals live about five times longer than they grow. Man grows for twenty years, and ought to live ninety or one hundred years, and would, with a proper observance of the laws of his physical nature.

Dr. Stenhouse, a London physician of eminence, has discovered that a very thin layer of charcoal effectually absorbs the very minute quantities of infectious matter floating in the atmosphere of what are called unhealthy localities ; and this has led him to the construction of a charcoal air-filter, which is applicable to ships, to the gully-holes of sewers, to respirators, &c. It consists of a thin layer of charcoal-powder inclosed between two sheets of wire-gauze, and has been used very successfully.

The Springfield [Mass.] Republican says :—“ Among recent miraculous cures by spirits, recorded in the spiritual papers, we notice—D. K. Kendall, of this city, cured of tobacco-chewing and costiveness ; Hannah Hunt, of this city, relieved of liver complaint ; Eliu C. Johnson, of Westfield, cured of dyspepsia ; and Almeda Dexter, of Ware, of hip complaint, all without medicine, by ‘ laying on of hands,’ by Capt. Calvin Hall, of Somers, Ct.”

In the “ olden time,” public physicians were sometimes appointed. Hippocrates is said to have received a stipend from Athens, and to have been physician to the state. Democedes, in the 60th Olympiad, about 538 years before Christ, received at Aegina £900. He was invited to Athens with a salary of \$1,500 ; but Polycrates of Samos secured him for \$1,800.

Her majesty, the Empress of the French, has induced the government to undertake a project for the benefit of unfortunate mothers whose children are attacked by disease. The perfect of the Seine, therefore, is busied with the construction of an hospital, to contain 400 beds, to be situated in the Faubourg St. Antoine, where children will be received on the same condition as in the French Children’s Hospital at the other extremity of Paris.

It is not often that doctors have the good fortune to be spoken of in words like the following, which we take from an exchange : “ Dr. Daniel Fisher, of Edgartown, is considered the largest oil dealer in the world, with the exception of one establishment in London. His opinion is of more influence in the oil market than that of any other man ; and as an evidence of the extent of his business, it is stated that he has had 28,000 barrels of oil in his possession at one time.”

A young lady afflicted with a slight inflammation, which was unrelieved by the usual remedies, at the end of eight or ten days was advised by a friend—an ardent Catholic—to make a nine days' devotion to the shrine of St. Philomete. This was done, and the medical Prescription continued at the same time, as the young lady had a little faith. The ophthalmia became better, and was quite well on the tenth day. The oculist said it was cured much sooner than he expected, using the expressions "wonderful, miraculous;" and now the church is besieged, and the streets obstructed in the neighborhood of St. Philomete, by crowds of sightless wretches, claiming her good offices.

Dr. Luther V. Bell, one of the most distinguished physicians in Massachusetts, has been investigating the subject of "spiritualism," and a paper from his pen has been read before a meeting in Boston.

Signor Fenice, of Southern Italy, asserts that in the breath of cholera patients he has discovered insects infinitesimally small, and believes that by means of these the disease is infused.

Dr. Elisha Bartlet, late professor of *materia medica* and medical jurisprudence in the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons, died at Smithfield, R. I., last Thursday morning.

Dr. Griffin, an eminent physician in Monson, Mass., is about to leave for Sebastopol, to enter the hospital of the allies, as one of the medical and surgical staff.

The following named assistant-surgeons have recently been promoted to the grade of surgeons: R. W. Jeffrey, T. M. Potter, S. R. Addison, and W. A. Neilson, to fill the places of surgeons Washington and Turk, deceased, and Gaillon and Terrill resigned. To the vacancies made by these promotions, and by the resignation of assistant-surgeon Tunstall, the following appointments have been made of assistant-surgeons: W. G. Hay, D. B. Conrad, J. E. Semple, W. T. Hurd, and W. M. Brown.

The Emperor of France has conferred the decoration of the Legion of Honor on a number of physicians in various parts of France, who distinguished themselves by fidelity and courage during the recent invasion of cholera. This is a very different state of things than exists in our own city of New York. The cholera physicians of 1849, so far from being honored, have not been fully paid, and a suit against the city—the equity of which is allowed—has been decided against them by the Court of Appeals, for the reason that the suit was brought against the Board of Health, now not held a responsible body.

CIRCULAR

OF THE

Southern Botanico Medical College.

The Trustees of this Institution take pleasure in announcing that their arrangements for the seventeenth Annual course of Lectures are now complete, and are such as they have no doubt will meet the entire approbation of the whole Profession South.

Having, by the liberality of our Noble State, been placed beyond the reach of the hard necessities that still surround most of our sister Institutions in other States; and having at last secured the services of a Faculty which, taken as a whole, either as regards experience, talent, acquirements or perseverance, will compare most favorably with any similar body of Professors in the country; and having at the same time through the liberality of the city of Macon, and numerous friends, secured a splendid philosophical and chemical apparatus, including the necessary instruments for microscopical investigation, an anatomical museum, a large and select medical library, together with numerous pathological specimens and plates got up in a permanent form, in the best style of the art, as well as a great variety of specimens of articles composing our *Materia Medica*, as also a fine French Manikin which in many respects renders us independent of the usual anatomical materials, though even that is abundant, with ample Halls suitable for the accommodation of large classes; they consider themselves justified in saying that better facilities for the acquirement of a thorough, sound and scientific medical education are rarely if ever presented for the acceptance of the student.

The fact that hitherto the Colleges belonging to the Reformed School of medicine, have been regarded as deficient in such facilities, makes it become incumbent on the Trustees thus to dissipate that illusion and announce that their specimens and apparatus are the best that can be supplied either in London or Paris, and have been secured by a liberal outlay of money, which when necessary will not be wanting to enable this Institution to keep up with the advancement of the age.

Having labored long and assiduously to place the S. B. M. College on this permanent basis, it will be gratifying to the Trustees to know that their efforts have been appreciated by the general Profession, and they trust that a strong evidence of it will be presented on the first Monday in November next in a numerous class that will be an honor to the cause they so ardently advocate.

The following Gentlemen Comprise the Faculty.

L. BANKSTON, M. D.....	Prof. Physiology and Pathology.
J. T. COXE, M. D.....	Prof. Principles and Practice of Medicine and Therapeutics.
M. S. THOMSON, M. D.....	Prof. Obstetrics, & Diseases of Women and Children.
I. N. LOOMIS, M. D.....	Prof. Chemistry, Materia Medica and Botany.
I. M. COMINGS, M. D.....	Prof. Anatomy and Surgery.
O. A. LOCHRANE, Esq. M. D.....	Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence.
T. W. BRENTS, M. D.....	Demonstrator of Anatomy.

Entire fees for Instruction,.....	\$100 00
Matriculation fee (once only).....	5 00
Anatomical fee,.....	10 00

Fees payable in advance at the opening of the Session.

Candidates for Graduation are required to attend two Course of Lectures, one of which must be in this Institution; or must have attended one course of Lectures in addition to having been engaged in successful Practice from 3 to 5 years. Graduating fee \$25.

The address of Profs. Bankston, Coxe, Thomson, Loomis and Lochrane is Macon, Georgia.

Prof. Comings 68 East Broadway, N. Y., and T. W. Brents, M. D., Louisburg, Tenn. To either of whom letters of enquiry may be addressed.

THE

Journal of Medical Reform.

OCTOBER, 1855.

Original Communications.

ALCOHOL AS A MEDICINE.

No. 2.

BY PROF. I. M. COMINGS.

In our remarks last month we attempted to prove that alcohol was injurious as a medicine, from the fact that it was an *irritant*, and excited the vital powers in an unnatural way, and that this over action was not only unnecessary, but absolutely injurious. When even medicinal doses of alcohol are frequently administered at short intervals, the coats of the stomach become inflamed, and the appetite is deranged. The continued irritation that is kept up, upon the coats of this important organ, causes this insatiable appetite which is always crying "give, give," and is never satisfied. Whenever this pathological condition becomes established, the demands of appetite, and the cravings of uncontrolled desire, entirely overcome the reason and judgment, and then the *moral* powers easily succumb to the *lower* propensities. But this is not all; besides the effect upon the mind and nervous system, we soon see the liver diseased, the kidneys affected, and a sympathetic derangement of the breathing and circulatory systems.

Dr. Perira an eminent writer on dietetics observes, concerning wine, "that in a state of health, its use can in no way be beneficial, but, on the contrary, it is calculated to prove injurious, by exhausting the vital powers and inducing disease." If such is its effect upon a healthy constitution, what will it be upon the weakened powers when less able to resist the poison? It is true the amount of injury which it may inflict, will depend upon the quantity and

quality of the liquor taken, and according to the peculiar disease which may exist in the system.

Dr. Chrishan makes a similar remark, he says, "wine is an unnecessary article of diet for all who are healthy, robust and engaged in active occupation, and especially injurious where the occupation is sedentary and the mind much exerted." But, we enquire, if this is hurtful in health, why not more so in disease? Let an enlightened pathology answer.

Dr. A. Combe observes on this point, as follows, "medical men should be on their guard against directly or indirectly encouraging in their patients, a practice so utterly destructive to both physical and moral happiness, for in some instances it is to be feared, that the stimulant bitters, and antispasmodics so generally had recourse to in indigestion and nervous diseases, have had an unsuspected share in the foundation of the habit of intemperance."

It is but a few weeks since that we were called on to prescribe for a patient whom we found laboring under a nervous excitement as the consequence of continued dissipation. His history, in short, was this: Some years ago he had become intemperate, but when Father Mathew visited this city, he took the pledge, and kept it inviolate for near two years. Unhappily he had a slight attack of disease and called in a physician who is considered a temperance man, and who is also a minister of the gospel, and has lectured much on temperance. This physician prescribed *gin* as a medicine! and in three weeks this poor son of Erin, was a beastly drunkard in the streets.—Such are the results of *alcoholic medicines*.

Every physician who has had any experience in the treatment of *chronic forms of disease*, must have observed that those patients who have been accustomed to the use of ardent spirits, are not half so susceptible to the influence of medicinal agents, as the temperate. In fact, we predicate our prognosis, on the constitution of the patient, and the resistance which it is able to make to the disease. If the recuperative powers of nature are vigorous, although the disease may be severe, yet we see at once, that, with a little assistance these powers will resist the disease and come off victorious.

There is more or less functional derangement in the system of every drinker of ardent spirits: there is an *unnatural state*, although externally the person may seem robust, and in good health. This is evident from the numerous instances which are of almost daily occurrence in the practice of every physician, where a very small injury destroys vitality.

We have somewhere seen the following account which is in point. Some 40 or 50 years ago there was a Drayman in London, who was a giant fellow, and to all appearance, robust and healthy. He was a regular tippler, and known by the name of "Big Ben." He was considered one of the strongest men within the bills of mortality.

On looking at this man, almost every one would have said death will certainly find it no easy matter to level him, yet for all this apparently healthy state, Ben was brought down by an injury, so slight that it would not have scathed a child. One day his hand received a slight graze from the wheel of a passing carriage on the crowded street; the skin was hardly ruffled. Ben wiped away the starting blood and thought no more of the matter; in one week from that time, Ben was in his grave. Such cases used to be quite common; and even now are not very rare, in our large cities, where there is a tempting *grog shop*, or more refined saloon or restaurant, at every corner of the street, to tempt the slave of appetite to renewed excess.

This constant liquor drinking creates an *unnatural* kind of *strength* and *bulk*, but neither will conduce to long life or permanent good health. Whether a man be strong or not, it is of the greatest importance that he live in such a temperate manner, that the principle of healing inherent in the system may be at liberty to act vigorously, as is especially necessary in all cases of personal injury, as well as in all forms of disease. Intemperance will weaken this principle, or altogether destroy it; so that when disease invades the system, all the power of medicine and art, most judiciously and wisely applied, can avail nothing.

But the evil, stops not here. The effects of alcohol upon the system are such, as to predispose it to disease. When the dreaded Cholera spreads over the land there are but few cases, among the strictly temperate, and these are they that are weakened by some other disease which may be lurking in the constitution.

When alcohol was first introduced into medical practice, it was used in small quantities as opium and other narcotics are used and its action is very similar to this poison, for it produces hilarity of mind and temporary energy of the muscles. The mind is relieved from care and anxiety for a short period, and indulges in pleasant reverie, yet in some cases like opium it produces anger, upon slight, or even supposed provocation.

The muscular system endures exercise on its use but a little time, before a kind of lassitude supervenes, and this demands a repetition of the dose. Continue this, and a state of imbecility of mind and muscles succeeds as in the use of other narcotics.

It is very evident then, if alcohol is used at all, it should be under the same circumstances and doses as opium and other deadly poisons are used instead of making it the menstruum of every drug, and using it on all occasions and for all complaints.

HOW TO MAKE FOOD AGREE WITH THE STOMACH.

BY J. B. SPIERS, M. D.

OUR digestive organs appear to be endowed with a great degree of sensibility in respect to the kind of food we ought to use. When any kind of food, however fond we may be of it, disagrees with the stomach, it ought at once to be discontinued. There may be things that our appetite would take, that our reason tells us would be injurious. When, therefore, either reason or experience tells us we ought not to use an article, it should at once be refused.

It is not unfrequently the case that a person cannot eat a certain article of diet simply because the digestive powers are not right. Let the person then take medicine and correct the bad state of the digestive powers, and he may then eat articles of diet with impunity that before caused him pain and suffering.

Many things do not agree with the stomach of some persons merely because they eat too much. Again, food disagrees with others from the fact, that they eat or drink something with it which causes it to disagree with them. A case in point: A gentleman at my house expressed himself as being very fond of honey, but afraid to eat it or much of it, because it did not agree with his stomach. I told him that the cause of its disagreeing with him was owing to his drinking water immediately after eating it—that he ought not to drink water for two or three hours after eating honey, or any other sweet thing. Afterwards he could eat honey without any unpleasant effects.

There are many cases in which water drank immediately after eating is injurious. If one drinks at all let it be a small portion while eating, and that not to wash the food down, but at intervals by itself. My impression is that the whole process of washing down the food with water, tea, coffee, &c., is decidedly injurious.

After a person has eaten food which has become sour on his stomach, or given him the "heart burn," then let him drink freely of water as this will sometimes give relief.

Drinking too much fluid while a person is eating, or immediately afterwards, with persons of weak digestive powers, so dilutes the gastric juices as to render them incapable of digesting the food, and, consequently, sourness and other symptoms of indigestion follow. Let such persons eat less and drink little or no fluids while eating, or until two or three hours afterwards. Patience and perseverance will most assuredly, in nine cases out of ten, bring a pleasant reward without even the use of medicine.

"And if at first you don't succeed,
Try, try again."

Petersburg, Va., June, 1855.

MEDICAL CONSERVATISM AND MEDICAL REFORM.

BY HERBERT FEARN, M. D.

MR. EDITOR.—I was somewhat surprised in reading an article in the August number of the American Monthly Med. and Surg. Journal, which is headed as above. It was well written on the whole, and seemed to come from one who had a patriotic heart beating in his breast, whose only wish seemed to be the good of the whole; but in his eagerness, he seems to have committed a strange error, which militates against consistency. It is as follows: "In the estimation of many, (medical reform) consists in the rejection of certain agents, which, when taken internally or applied locally, are, in many instances fraught with dangerous if not fatal consequences—such, for instance, as the mercurial, antimonial and arsenical preparations."

"Another class of reformers extend their objections over a longer area, and build their faith on the rejection of a class of agents the properties of which are well known and many of them highly appreciated by *all* except this class of reformers, and in the hands of the discreet and skilful are among the most valuable agents of the *Materia Medica*. Yet they are rejected, and in the estimation of this class of reformers, it is *reform* to exclude them from use, because they are found in the mineral kingdom.

"Still another class of reformers build their faith on the exclusion of all agents known as *narcotics*, no matter how valuable or indispensably necessary they may be in the treatment of disease in the hands of others. Yet it is *reform* to exclude them from their *materia medica*. In this way, every one may be a reformer, yet differ widely and fundamentally in every thing appertaining to the properties and uses of medicines.

"Reform, like all other words, has a definite signification, and ought to be used in its literal sense, if used at all, or how can we understand the harmony or discord existing between the members of the medical profession, unless this rule is allowed to govern us in the use of terms? Reform, then in its true sense implies a change from worse to better, to correct, to improve; and as applied to medicine, it is intended to imply improvement in the science or practice of medicine, in some essential particular.

"The question in this connection, gives rise to the inquiry, what improvement have the so called reformers made in any of the departments of medical science, which entitles them to the prominent position they claim for themselves? This question may be answered by saying, that all the improvements in the arts, and sciences, as well as literature, have been the labored productions of reformers, which is strictly true according to the literal signification of the term."

I have made the above lengthy extract so that it would not be said, I had destroyed the sense or in any way garbled it.

That it is reform, or change from worse to better, to reject agents, which, when taken internally or applied locally, are fraught with dangerous if not fatal consequences,—seems perfectly plain to all, I should think, and accords with the writers' definition. But to say that mercurial, antimonial and arsenical preparations are all that this definition proscribes, would be a flat contradiction to the whole history of medicine.

Why are these preparations fraught with dangerous if not fatal consequences? Because they are in their *very nature*, not *quantity*, poisons, which either permanently derange the functions or destroy the tissue. For proof that this is true I have only to refer to the greatest ornaments and authorities that ever have adorned the study of medicine with their energies either in its literature or practice; then if this is the reason of their rejection, it surely is not consistent with *reform* to retain others whose *nature* and *tendency* is the same, and many of which are equally powerful in the process of destruction. If we reject these, we ought to reject all of those which have the same tendency.

It is the nature of all poisons to act as poisons whether they are given with the intent to cure disease, or with the intent to produce destruction, which is their *only* tendency. For it is impossible for anything, the nature of which is to destroy, ever to be capable of restoring to health or tend in the least to produce such a favorable result. No man would ever expect to raise a house to the top story, if a set of midnight villains should go and undermine its foundation. So it is with reference to poisons, instead of building up the system when diseased, or assisting in any way to that end, they uniformly tend to its destruction, to thwart the efforts of the vital powers to recover their wonted condition.

In the third paragraph, on definitions, above quoted, it is removing from worse to better, to exclude all agents known as *narcotics*, no matter how valuable! or indispensably necessary! they may be, in the treatment of disease in the hands of others! What, can it be possible that (circumstances being similar in both cases) a cannon ball fired into the ranks of the allies by their foes, will destroy a number of them, and a similar ball being fired by the allies with as much force into the ranks of the Russians, will forsooth not only not injure them, but be valuable and indispensably necessary to restore their wounded!! It is just as possible in the one case, as the other.

On p. 342 this writer very truly says, "It is the anxious desire of the *true* reformer to see the practice of the profession so conducted, as that its success will be greater in the cure of disease, and that it shall be removed as far as possible from any tendency towards producing consequences of an objectionable or deleterious character, on the living constitution, and he confidently looks forward to the time when such a thing as the disease creating tendencies of the practice of medicine shall be numbered with the things that were."

Yes, that is true, but the professor must have been in the dark, for the *true medical reformer now* rejects, in toto, every means and process, which in its nature and tendency, in authorized medicinal quantities, degrees or modes of application, has been known to have directly destroyed human life, or permanently injured the tissue or deranged the physiological action; and use those, and those only, which have a direct tendency to aid the vital organs in the removal of causes of disease, and the restoration of health and vigor. Unless narcotics are prohibited, I can conceive of no reform, radically speaking. For the mere rejection of mercurial, antimonial and arsenical preparations, is just like rejecting cannon balls, and using in their place those of rifles. Thousands of Allopaths have reformed so far, and still adhere to the blistering and other erroneous and destructive processes of depletion.

In conclusion, then, those who only reject the three above named preparations, and retain other destructive processes are not reformers, properly speaking, because they reject nothing which they do not retain in a smaller degree, and are inconsistent with themselves! We conclude therefore, that those who can cure disease, and restore health and vigor, without poisonous minerals, narcotics, or any other depressing means are *true* reformers.

Further if this writer or any other man will show by reasoning from facts, that *narcotics* or any other depressing means are *essential* or *indispensably necessary!* for the removal of disease or its causes, or that disease can be removed quicker by such means, without the least injury, I shall be most happy to adopt and support such practice. I am bound by *no creed* which restricts from the use of anything which time and facts do not prove to be injurious.

I had written thus much, when on looking into the Worcester Med. Journal for August, I see the editor seems involved in a thick mist, like a ship in a similar condition, without either compass or helm, and apparently without a chart of the waters in which he is floating, for he batters away at every straw. He seems just like a drowning man, who is so exhausted, that his every struggle is sinking him deeper and deeper; but to give the proof. He says, "reform is an effort to bring the old to its pristine purity and simplicity." We had come to the conclusion, that nothing of man's creations were pure. The *idea*, to bring the knowledge of medicine back to the ages of superstition and priestcraft in order to reform it! ridiculous!!

Again, "Luther did not attempt to modify or reform Catholicism but to *reform Christianity*, corrupted by Catholicism." What! he did not attempt to *re-form* Catholicism but to *re-form* the doctrines and precepts of Christ! to form them again, to make them anew! to correct *their* abuses! bringing them back to their pristine purity and simplicity! Christianity or Christ's precepts and doctrines corrupted, did they require the mind and exertions of Luther to make them pure? Oh! absurd of all absurdities! If there was any

corruption in them they could not be Christ's precepts ; it must be corruption garbled by the name of Christianity, and not Christianity in its purity and simplicity.

Again, "Our Fathers of '76 did not attempt to reform at all, but to revolutionize, or rather their attempt to correct abuses ended, not in reformation, but in revolution." This great philosopher then tells us in fact, that they attempted to change the government, and that their efforts ended not in reformation but simply in revolution—in other words a material or entire *change* in the constitution of government. Where did they change it to ? to its "pristine purity and simplicity ?" Oh, according to the above, they did not need to reform, or form again the government, but after changing it to nowhere, they let it stay there, and went without any at all, so we have had no form of government ever since.

The pith of all his blundering lays in this declaration, with which he closes : "We have not discovered that they (the reformers) have ever yet been able to elaborate anything very important with reference to physiological principles, different to what is common to most physicians." That's it. He is blinded to common sense, and not able to understand the philosophy of medicine.

203 Canal Street, New York.

IMPORTANCE OF CLINICAL OBSERVATION—VARIO-LINE IN SMALL POX.

BY H. S. FIRTH, M. D.

PROF. COMINGS ; Dear Sir,—While there are many established facts, and well-grounded theories connected with medicine, yet if ever it takes rank as an exact science, it must attain that point through a succession of careful tests ; for whatever benefit the world may have obtained through theorizing in other departments of science, most of the well ascertained truths in our profession have been learned at the bedside of the sick. Truth is no less a truth because it appears in opposition to our own ideas of Philosophy. Indeed, what correct proposition has the world ever received upon its first introduction ? I have before me a number of the Literary Gazette, published in this country thirty years ago, wherein the idea of the Magnetic Telegraph is ridiculed as a philosophical delusion. In fact, any innovation upon our ideas of truth, or modes of reasoning, is sure to be met with opposition and not unfrequently with persecution. The introduction of Phrenology, Mesmerism, Espey's theory of storms, and Thomson's Lobelia, are all recent exhibitions of the fact ; and the prejudice against the latter is as strong in the minds of many now, as it was years ago. But what of that. Does prejudice prove any thing ? Indeed, may it, and does it not blind

our eyes to the light of truth shining all around us? How are we to know how much truth Homœopathy, Hydropathy, Chrono-Thermalism or Uroscopy contain, unless we test them (at least the innocent part) at the bed of the patient? We must be to an extent Eclectic, to be progressive, and we must be progressive if we would enrich science and be useful. Every man's experience is worth something. Every successful test goes to establish a fact, and every established fact enriches science. The man that introduces to the world an article that will cure one disease (I care not what system he may favor) does more for humanity than does he who subdues a nation. For while the latter may bring order out of confusion, and elevate morally and intellectually a people, yet the good will be local and circumscribed, while the benefit of the former will reach all nations and all time; hence the good flowing from the introduction of Lobelia, will cause Thomson to live in history and monumental marble! Matrons, Sires, and infants yet unborn will benefit and be benefited by his discovery, and do justice to his memory. Wrong will not forever outlive right. Truth is eternal and will ultimately arise in the majesty of her immortal attributes, and grant the meed of immortality to the names of Thomson, Beach, Priesnitz, Hahnemann and other worthies of this and other times, who battled and suffered for right; while the names of those who clothed them with obloquy, for their noble deeds, will be lost to the knowledge of the human race, or remembered for the cruelty and injustice with which they assailed them.

How far the theory of "Similia Similibus curantur," may be true cannot probably be correctly judged; but that it is to an extent true cannot be successfully denied. The Old School physician acts upon this principle in giving strychnia for paralysis, and applying Nitratus Argenti in inflammations. The Botanic in the administration of small portions of Lobelia or Ipecac as an anti-emetic, and Capsicum in inflammatory throat affections, &c. The Homœopathic action of medicines is capable of demonstration. For instance, take an ordinary dose of Podophylline and triturate it with Sacrum Lactus for an hour or two, and you will have several purgative doses by the subdivision. A drop of Tinc. Anonite Rad. and the same quantity of Tinc. Belladonna given an adult every half hour alternately, largely diluted with water, will have more effect as a diaphoretic, than would ten or twenty drops otherwise given; and it is a well known fact, that to produce ptyalism, small doses of the mercurials will soonest attain that effect. I do not say, nor do I believe that there is sufficient truth in any one of the pathies or isms to form a correct system; but I do say that they each contain some prominent truthful features, which it would be well for us to understand. As an Eclectic, I adopt the motto:

"Sieze upon truth where'r 'tis found,
On Christian or on Pagan ground."

As an illustration, I give you the following case of Variola, treated Homœopathically by me.

Some few months ago, I was called to see one of my patients who had been complaining for some days with pains in the head and back, with nausea of the stomach and feverish condition of the system, which she supposed was the result of a cold. She was a woman of ordinary good constitution, and fair general health. Temperament, nervo-bilious. I found her in the first stage of labor, at eight months gestation. Matters progressed smoothly, and in a reasonable time she was delivered of a still born child. On my visit next morning, I found her face and upper extremities covered with small pox eruption, which (although I am familiar with the disease) proved to be the worst case of the confluent kind I ever saw. Though I determined to do the best I could, what with the severity of the case and the depletion consequent upon parturition, every feature was grave, and the prognosis extremely unfavorable. I commenced by giving a mild laxative of Leptandrine to cleanse the bowels, and followed with mucilaginous drink, Asclepine and diaphoretic teas. On the third day of the eruption I invited Dr. Sherrell, (a respectable Homœopathic physician,) to see the case, with no view, however, to a consultation. He strongly advised me to a trial of Varioline, and related many cures of bad cases the article had performed in his hands. I made up my mind to give it a trial, and commenced by giving two grains of the first trituration every two hours, with an occasional dose of Leptandrin during the treatment. The pock matured well, and what was astonishing, the disease passed off without the least vestige of secondary fever. As the pock was receding there occurred a suppression of action of the kidneys for some two days. I passed the catheter, but found no urine in the bladder. I then gave her one drop of the Tint. of Cantharidis, largely diluted with water, every half hour, which caused her in a few hours to urinate enormously. In two or three days the kidneys again ceased to secrete, when the like treatment produced the same result. The case went on favorably to desquamation.

I have frequently since tried the Varioline in milder forms of the disease with invariable good results. In every case when given early, the eruption receded without maturing, and left no after consequences of a bad character. The doctor assures me that it acts equally well as a preventive to the disease, and I have no cause to doubt it. I have tried Macrotine in small pox, but must give Varioline the preference.

New York, August 18, 1855.

LIGATION OF THE CAROTIDS.

BY H. FEARN, M. D.

AMONG the numerous operations witnessed by the last class of students in the Metropolitan Medical College, there was one that interested us very much, and I promised some of the class to give the result in the Journal.

The subject of the operation was a girl of about seventeen years of age ; rather short stature ; the mental-motive temperament rather predominating. Apparently, a very sensible girl, with high moral perceptions ; and if we are to judge and treat others in the scale of the proportion and purity of their mentality, she could not receive a small share of attention.

The disease for which these operations were performed was Hypertrophy of the tongue. It was congenital, and three or four years ago there seemed to be no apparent change ; but since that time it has steadily but slowly increased, till at the time of the operation it protruded past the lips an inch or more ; it was also thickened at the same time to almost if not quite three-quarters of an inch. As it increased in size, the pain increased. It impeded her enunciation to a considerable extent.

Several surgeons of this city had tried to alleviate her condition by cutting slices out of it. Prof. Carnochan considered the only means of primary value were to be obtained by stopping the nutrition of it as far as consistent ; consequently he ligatured the external carotid before the bifurcation of the lingual, anticipating that he would have to perform a similar operation on the other side before much diminution could ensue.

The operation was performed on the 31st of March, 1855. The result was, that in the course of two to three weeks, there was considerable thinning of that side of the tongue nourished by the ligatured artery. There was no hemorrhage or other difficulties more than are to be met with in wounds of similar size in other parts. On May, the 26th, he tied the *primitive Carotid* of the other side. These operations were performed with his usual dexterity, and all went on well—the tongue apparently diminishing ever since.

We visited the patient on Saturday, August 25th, and on inquiry the girl told us that the pain was all gone, she could eat better, and that she could not see it unless by voluntary protrusion. She was up and walking around and could talk quite easy, comparatively speaking.

Her tongue did not seem much thicker than natural. The wound in the neck healed up well, and left but small cicatrices. From present appearances it will become perfectly natural in no great length of time.

Some might think that the Professor was not justifiable in this

bold attempt for the alleviation of the above named affliction, which appeared in itself so small ; but a moments consideration will remove any such idea, and award him great credit for, without precedent, risking his reputation in a case which appeared so perfectly hopeless. He has succeeded admirably, and a whole life's misery has been saved. If he had accomplished no more than the arrest of its growth, it was of great value and would deserve the gratitude of the profession for its originality and success.

He has used the same principle in cases of Varicose veins of the leg, tying the artery instead of the vein ; but of these in future.

203 Canal Street, New York.

RECUSSITATION FROM DROWNING.

BY THOMAS D. ANDREWS, M. D.

MR. EDITOR ; As instances of drowning are always multiplied during the bathing season, I am sure you will readily accept any observations tending to obviate such a distressing calamity. I am well aware that ample directions are laid down in our medical works for the purpose of restoring persons apparently drowned, and I am well aware that a copy of similar directions is printed on the cover of Mitchel's Almanac ; but with all due deference to these learned authorities, I am disposed to think that a more concise and natural code of rules may be laid down, so that they may be easily remembered, and readily acted upon—the object in these cases being celerity with caution—*festina leute* of the poet. Before, however, I come to the rules, I should like to offer a few remarks upon the method in which life is destroyed by drowning, or any other kind of suffocation, in order that your intelligent readers may comprehend the principles of the recussitating operation and practice it accordingly.

We are indebted chiefly to Bichat and the physiologists who have since followed him, especially to M. Brodie and Dr. W Phillips for the first distinct and rational exp'anson of the manner in which life is destroyed. Until the French physiologist in his admirable work on the Phenomena of Life, first placed the enquiry upon a scientific basis, we knew little or nothing about it. We saw men die from disease, from poison, and from accident, but how life was destroyed we knew not—that is we knew not, except in some very palpable cases, what principal organs first contributed to the extinction of the vital spark ; men died, that was enough : but Bichat taught us to reflect and reason upon this subject, and to establish our reasonings on the mutual relations and connections of the three great organs of the body—the heart, the lungs and the brain, in one of which the commencement of dissolution must always take place.

But as the object of the present communication is to explain only one of the modes, namely, suffocation, I shall confine myself to that.

In death by suffocation, two distinct stages take place. In the first sensation thought and voluntary motion are destroyed ; in the second, circulation of the blood and the functions of all the organs cease. During the first stage, while the body is in a state of perfect insensibility, respiration having ceased, the heart partially continues its action, circulating black or venous blood to all parts of the body. It is this circulation of venous or unoxydized blood (the lungs being impervious to the external air,) which completely destroys life ; for as soon as a certain quantity of this dark fluid is propelled through the brain, it acts as a poison and inevitably obliterates the vital powers. This fact will show at once the mode in which artificial respiration proves beneficial ; for if the black venous blood has not flowed long through the vessels of the brain, the artificial respiration acting upon the mass of blood in the body oxydizes it, and changes it into the bright scarlet fluid necessary to existence. This should be well borne in mind in all attempts at resuscitation ; for if artificial respiration be continued too long or used to rashly, it will surely be pernicious. So long, then, as the body is in the first stage of suffocation, with the heart still beating, although but feebly and irregularly, there is a good prospect of success by the exercise of judicious means, which means I shall endeavor to describe.

First. The patient should be placed in a reclining position, *the head being elevated and turned toward the left side ; the mouth and nose should be cleansed from filth or froth and as few persons as possible should be in the room, into which warm air should be freely admitted.*

Second. Gentle warmth by means of flannel, or bladders containing hot water, should be applied to the surface of the body, *especially to the chest and back.. Friction with warm cloths or flannels should also be sedulously used, at first very gently, but with increased energy as symptoms of returning animation appear.*

Third. As soon as the patient is capable of swallowing, give at first a spoonful or two of warm water or any other simple fluid, and afterwards, if the restoration proceeds, some wine or spirits may be added, but these should be administered with caution, and considerably diluted.

Fourth. The most important operation is that of artificial respiration, which may be performed as soon as possible, and if no better apparatus be at hand, with a common bellows. Indeed, the mouth of a bystander may be of good service till a bellows be procured. The object of artificial respiration is to inflate the lungs and excite the *diaphragm* or miduff to action ; and if these can be effected before the heart totally ceases to beat, life may be restored.

For this purpose the muzzle of the bellows should be introduced into one nostril while the other as well as the mouth should be closed by a bystander. The lungs should now be gently inflated, and as soon as the chest is elevated the mouth and vacant nostril should be opened, and the air in the lungs allowed to escape ; but the chest and ribs should not be pressed in order to force it out, as the elasticity of the ribs will produce sufficient compression. Now in a state of health a person breathes about fourteen or fifteen times in a minute, and it is better to inflate the lungs as often by artificial respiration, and this must be continued till the patient is able to respire by his own natural efforts.

Let me briefly recapitulate to your readers the object of these directions.

First. *The elevation of the head* to keep it as free as possible from blood, and to render the access of the air more easy.

Secondly. The gradual promotion of external warmth by means of appropriate fluids.

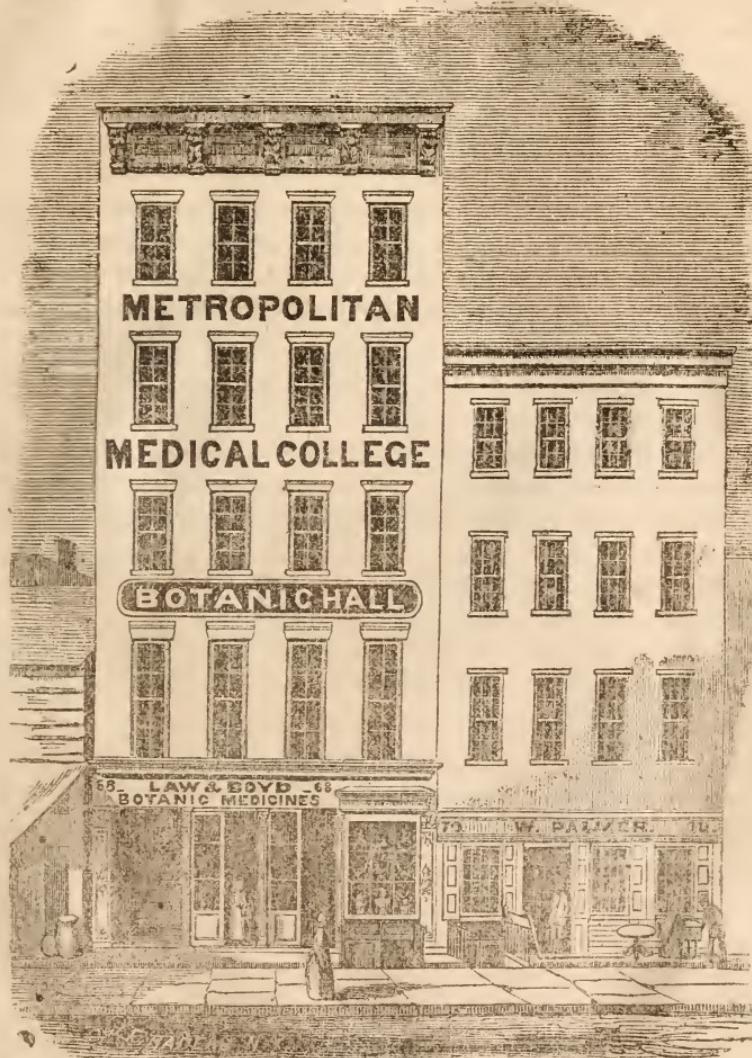
Lastly. The application of artificial respiration to stimulate the miduff or diaphragm into action, and to oxydize the venous blood which the heart still beating circulates through the body. Enemas of tobacco smoke have been strenuously recommended, but they are highly dangerous and in unskilful hands have often counteracted the good effected by the other remedies. Bleeding, too, is useful in some stages of the recovery, but this should never be practiced except by a medical man, who can generally be obtained before this remedy is necessary. All precipitate or violent measures must be avoided and great care must be taken of the patient after his recovery. He must be treated in fact as one who has received a violent accident—as one whose constitution is reduced to its primitive infancy. As, however, a medical man can always be obtained before this period of the case, any further remark is unnecessary.

In conclusion, Sir, perhaps it would be proper to describe the symptoms of returning animation, that the operators may be enabled to judge whether their exertions will be successful or not. The first obvious symptom is the faint pulsation of the heart, then a vibration of the body with convulsions. The pulsation of the heart is now extended to the large vessels and is perceptible in the temples—the eyes move, and the muscles of the neck are convulsed. These signs, if the case be successful, are succeeded by the following more certain ones : a weak motion, color appearing in the lips and face, with a contraction of the muscles of the latter, convulsive motions of the toes, sneezing, agitation of the whole body, vomiting convulsive respiration with coughing and groaning.

179 Madison Street, New York.

[Every Reformed physician will readily add to the above excellent treatment, small doses of the 3d Prep. of Lob., with enemas of the same, as far preferable to the tobacco smoke and the bleeding.—*Ed.*

FOURTH ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT
OF THE
METROPOLITAN
MEDICAL COLLEGE,



No. 68 EAST BROADWAY, New York.

Winter and Spring Sessions for 1855-6.

CIRCULAR.

METROPOLITAN MEDICAL COLLEGE, NEW YORK.

THE fourth Session of this College will commence on the third Tuesday (16th) of October, 1855, at the Hall of the College, No. 68 East Broadway, New York. The 5th Session will commence on 2nd Tuesday March 1856.

FACULTY.

I. M. COMINGS, M. D., Anatomy and Surgery.

H. A. ARCHER, M. D., Theory and Practice.

J. D. FRIEND, M. D., Midwifery and Diseases of Women, &c.

T. S. SPERRY, M. D., Chemistry and Materia Medica.

H. S. LINCOLN, A. M., Medical Jurisprudence.

C. B. BRAINERD, M. D., Lecturer on Diseases of Eye and Ear.

This Institution has been in successful operation for three years. It is legally incorporated and duly authorized by the State of New York to confer Medical Degrees.

The Students of this College have free access to the most extensive Anatomical Museum in the country, and to the largest Hospitals in the United States, where disease in all its forms and surgical operations of every description are witnessed.

The whole fees for tickets to Lectures,	- - - - -	\$70,00
Matriculation and Museum,	- - - - -	5,00
Students having attended two courses in other Colleges, but none in this,	- - - - -	10,00

Good board can be obtained in the city from \$3,00 to \$4,50 per week, with all the comforts of good room, lights and fuel.

Students desiring further information, will address Prof. I. M. Comings, Dean of the Faculty, 68 East Broadway, or H. M. Sweet, M. D., Secretary of Board, No. 16 West 13th Street, New York.

The experience of the past three years has given us the greatest encouragement to continue our efforts in sustaining the Lectures in this Institution. We have really passed the Rubicon, and the future of our College must continue to brighten. We have made no extra exertions to secure the attendance of students, published no pompous Circulars, or advertised in the Journals of the day, neither have we made loud promises or excited expectations never to be realized. We have continued the even tenor of our way until we find our College firmly established and self sustaining.

Through the liberality of Messrs. Law and Boyd, we have secured the upper rooms of the spacious building, the cost of which adorns this Circular, and it is obtained from the lessees on terms so satisfactory, as to preclude any liabilities to hinder us in future, by renting it during the period not

occupied by us. We are secured in a College building, that is all we could desire in convenience, and spacious enough to accommodate two hundred students. The Dissecting Room, which is on the sixth floor back, is the most airy and pleasant that can be found in the city.

We can but congratulate the friends of Medical Reform in the United States, that they now have a College which will afford to our students all the facilities which this great city offers for surgical and anatomical investigations, and at the same time they can acquire that knowledge of the principles and practice of medicine which will carry them successfully through the responsibilities of professional life.

No exaggeration or high promises, or misrepresentations are used to induce students to attend the Lectures of our Faculty. They will find these privileges and advantages more than realised on attendance in this City. In fine, the Board now feel confident in the expression, that the Reformed Medical Fraternity in the United States have, what they have so long desired, viz., a Medical College where all the facilities common to the old School Colleges can be enjoyed.

We are well assured, that the Reformed Medical Students from the south and west, will seek this Emporium for a part, at least, of their Medical education. It becomes therefore, every one, who feels an interest in the cause of medical Reform, to leave no means untried, and no efforts wanting, to sustain the Metropolitan College, which shall thus be the great fountain, from which shall emanate those streams, that will water and invigorate our land. Our Students *will have* the advantages which we have offered them, and if we do not supply them *ourselves* they will seek them from the Allopathic schools, and thus be liable to become perverted and corrupted in their medical faith. This has already been the case in many instances, and we feel that the time has come for us to rally ourselves in support of this Institution, which bids fair to become worthy of the name it has assumed.

The students in attendance heretofore have expressed themselves in the highest terms of the facilities they have enjoyed, and have returned to their several homes with promises of their influence and support.

From the various letters which we have received from all parts of the country, we are assured of a greatly increased class, both for the Fall and Spring Sessions. Those students from remote parts of the country who may seek our City for its privileges can remain during both Sessions and thus they will be able to graduate before their return home, if they choose to do so.

As it regards the advantages and the peculiar privileges which New York City affords for the acquisition of Medical knowledge it is not necessary that we should speak, for they are acknowledged by all. Our students in com-

mon with those of all medical Schools have free access to the various hospitals in this large city. The largest Museum of anatomical preparations in the country is open to them. The Surgical cabinets of Pathology are rich in specimens of disease and injuries of the bones, and all manner of Surgical operations are daily performed in the hospitals.

Among other causes for the superiority of medical Schools in large cities, none is more evident than the facilities for the study of clinical medicine. It is true our students will not be particularly benefitted by the knowledge of the remedies prescribed only by the inefficiency of some, and the injury of others, yet the familiarity which the student acquires with disease in all its forms, the correct diagnosis, causes, pathology and prognosis will be of the greatest advantage.

Clinical instruction seems almost an indispensable complement to a medical education at the present day, for without it, all instruction however profound or comprehensive it may be in a literary point of view, must be more or less defective.

The Astor Library containing some thousands of volumes of Medical Books is also free to all who may wish to read or pursue their investigations beyond the text books of the course.

The above are some of the advantages which the Metropolitan Medical College holds out to the Reformed Medical students of the U. S.

From the fact, that a large number of our Colleges have the fees at 50 and 75 dollars, and a goodly number of students are anxious to take their second course of lectures in the Metropolitan, the Trustees have reduced the fees of this College to 75 dollars, thus giving all the facilities of this great Metropolis for the same sum charged by the country Colleges.

TEXT BOOKS.

The following works are recommended by the Faculty as suitable to be read in connection with their lectures.

On *Theory and Practice*.—All our Botanic works with Beach, Jones and Morrow and Newton and Powell, and Watson's Practice of the Old School.

On *Anatomy*.—Morton's, Paxton's, Wilson's, &c.

On *Surgery*.—Miller's, Gibson's, and Hills'.

On *Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children*.—Curtis's, and Botanic works, Churchill's, Ashwell on Females, and Dewees on Children, Condie.

On *Therapeutics and Materia Medica*.—Kost's, Botanic works, Pereira and the Dispensaries.

On *Physiology*.—Carpenter's, Oliver's, and Kirk's, and Paget's.

On *Chemistry*.—Gray's, Towne's, Graham's.

On *Medical Jurisprudence*.—Taylor's and Beck's.

Editorial.

PROF. BUCHANAN AND THE NEW YORK MEETING.

As others have replied to Prof. Buchanan's Protest against the National Eclectic Convention, we shall only notice the editorial in the Sept. number of the Eclectic Medical Journal so far as it concerns us personally. He says, "This old slang about *calomel* and the lancet is too notoriously untrue to require any answer, and as we wish to respect the editor of that Journal as an honest man, we hope he will see the propriety of making the *amende honorable*. As he knows very well the expression, time serving Eclectic, who believes in calomel and the lancet is grossly untrue, he will, if he respects himself as an honorable man, make the proper correction."

Now we shall prove what we said to be true, and much more besides. Is it possible that Dr. Buchanan has not read Dr. Cleveland's views of Calomel as contained in the Lancet, and in the seventh and eighth numbers of this Journal. Will he be willing to take his own colleague as Eclectic authority for using Calomel—the advertised author of an Eclectic Materia Madica—"Podophyllin cannot be relied on to supply the place of the mercurials in certain cases, and it will not remove deposits of inflammatory exudations as Calomel will." Is this "slang about the use of Calomel?" and so we might quote from almost every number of the Eclectic Journal, of reports of cases, as well as from other sources, to prove the truth of what we said. Look at the Clinical Reports for the last six months in the Eclectic Journal, for leeching, cupping, scarifying and other depleting methods, for the truth of our assertion. In the September number of the Journal before us, we see the following poisons often recommended : Zinc sulph., Nux vomica, Tinct. Cantharides, Ol Tiglii, Oxalic acid, Creosote, Tinct. Opii, Argent. Nit., Ext. Belladonna, Tinct. Stramonium, Tinct. Aconite, &c. This is a fair sample of such *innocuous medication* as our Eclectic friends follow. The above catalogue of poisons may be seen in every number of the *official records* of the treatment in the "Clinical Institute" connected with the College of which Prof. Buchanan is the head "Is it slang and notoriously untrue" that the Professors in the Eclectic Medical College recommend and practice bleeding and the use of Calomel, when we see it thus on every page of their organ? Are the Eclectic Physicians advocates of "innocent medication," with such a list of poisons in daily use? And tell me if it is not "time serving" as well as dishonest, to pretend to be advocates of harmless remedial agents, and yet in *practice* use the most deadly poisons, even more frequently than the Allopath.

We claim nothing for Thomson but what he is legitimately entitled to ; and while we acknowledge his ignorance and his errors, yet we regard him as we do Fulton and Franklin, and Harvey, Galilio, &c.,—one who made discoveries and introduced views, ideas and principles that were before unknown.

Let us candidly ask Prof. Buchanan what his boasted Eclectic Practice would be now, without the remedial agents that Samuel Thomson first brought into use ? Dr. B. is not the first ungrateful man who has denied his humble origin. Other ambitious aspirants have arisen in the world and vainly attempted to elevate themselves upon the hard-earned labors and discoveries of others. But time, and the prudent judgment of the great mass of the people will ultimately accord to the discoverer and benefactor the true meed of glory.

Notwithstanding "there has been and must continue to be a broad line of distinction between the followers of Samuel Thomson and the large class of physicians who are known as American Eclectics," yet the Allopaths will "sneeringly" class them as Thomsonians, for they well know that they are a degenerate branch from this parent tree of Medical Reform ; and to day, the Eclectics have not half the respect from the Old School, that the Thomsonians have, or those that adhere closely and truly to the no poison doctrine of medication. As long as we stick to this principle and carry it out fully in our practice, we are safe and will ultimately triumph. None can successfully controvert our principles or gainsay our practice ; for we stand on an immovable rock and nothing can overwhelm us. Prof. Buchanan's sneer at Thomsonism will not add one iota to his own credit, or to the advancement of his Eclecticism.

But we have already occupied more space than we intended—one remark more and we close. It is worse than in vain to publish long articles of quotations from Dr. Morrow's or Buchanan's writings, or any other man's writings, to prove that Eclectics "deny the necessity of using any remedies really injurious to the patient," while on every page of their authorized publications they recommend poisons, and almost every one of them use them in their practice.

MORTALITY IN NORFOLK, VA.

We are pained to learn from the papers, that Drs. Nash and Cannon have both been carried off by this destructive pestilence, the yellow fever.

Dr. Nash has long enjoyed the confidence of the people in Norfolk and Portsmouth, and his loss will be severely felt by his numerous friends. Dr.

Cannon was a young physician of much promise, and many friends will mourn his loss. These faithful and devoted physicians remained at their posts. While worn down by fatigue and completely exhausted by their efforts to save others, they fell like martyrs in obedience to stern duty. All honor to their memories. We have not been able to learn the particulars of their sickness and whether there were any other Reformed physicians in the city. We presume they were the only ones, and being sick at the same time each was deprived of the services of the other.

We had great hopes that the lives of these faithful public servants would have been saved, and that from them we should have received a good account of success in treating this dreadful disease. But, alas, they have fallen, and with them a large number of physicians of all classes, and the most valued citizens of the place.

The mortality, in proportion to the inhabitants, has been greater in Norfolk and Portsmouth than was even known in this country before.

PAY THE DOCTOR.

THE following very just remarks we find in the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal. We should not care if they would prompt some of our good friends and patrons to remember the doctor. How often have we heard the most fulsome praises of our skill and the most ample rewards promised for our services by the sick, and yet after a speedy recovery the doctor is forgotten and his bills are the last paid.

"While clergymen are often 'agreeably surprised' by substantial and very acceptable tokens of remembrance from their parishioners, who will even make an excursion to their pastor's summer retreat, and surround him with delicate attentions;—while lawyers and politicians are often nearly suffocated with ovations and gifts—year after year of the toiling physician's life steals away, with the bare recognition of his invaluable services, made in answer to the formal demand of the semi-annual summons, and this, too, often with a shoulder shrug, and the comment—'monstrous big bill!' How pleasant, by contrast, is the occasional expression of heartfelt, nay, even tearful gratitude—sometimes the only remuneration, for days of careful and anxious watching and responsibility for which *no gold can pay*. It is a pity that the public do not, more generally, enter into a right estimate of the feelings and trials of physicians, and recognize the claims which the latter have, at least to consideration, if gratitude be forgotten.

HOME MEDICATION.

THE following truthful remarks we cut from the Sunday Mercury of Sept. 2d. The Raspail here quoted has been called the Samuel Thomson of France and his views seem destined to create in that nation what our Reformer has done in this.

“Dr. F. V. Raspail, the celebrated French physician, who for the last ten years has written a kind of medical almanac, comes out in his last issue very amusingly and very instructively. He seems to have a sovereign contempt for his profession, or rather of those who practice it without anything like the adequate knowledge, and who even make no attempt at acquiring the same. The words he chooses for his heading are characteristic, ‘Do your doctoring at home!’ We had always faith in the wisdom of the practice advised here; and had we not, the very striking facts and illustrations given by the great French physician would have converted us to his way of thinking.

“According to him, the science of medicine has not improved in the least for the last two thousand years. It is precisely where it then was, with this exception, perhaps, that humanity forty centuries back, was left only to a certain amount of skill, whereas, in our own time, that amount has not increased, but what is much worse, an immense amount of empiricism has been thrown into the scale. Human strength has deteriorated, too, and diseases unknown to the ancients have afflicted us. In the face of all these facts, then, we think Dr. Raspail may entertain no very elevated ideas of his ordinary professional brethren.

“As his own caption will imply, he is the advocate of home care in disease. He advises wholesome diet, fresh air and cheerfulness; strikes a strong blow at the sophism of mystery sought to be thrown around disease. A few words of his, in this relation, are worth their weight in gold. ‘Health and disease, what are they? The one, simply the natural state of man; the other the accidental. Yet doctors will get up, prate by the hour, to convince you that disease is a natural condition, and one of mystery as well. Don’t believe them. They know nothing, and their only aim is to delude you of your money.’

“We have not space to follow the Frenchman throughout his argument, although we shall revert to him more fully at another time. We must, however, avail ourselves of the present opportunity of stating that he thoroughly sustains his theory in all he says. Cheerfulness of spirits, loud laughter, and out of door exercise are rigidly enforced by him. He recommends people to avoid mental contemplation of one thing or a few things

for too long a time, to equalize mind and body alike. He points to the place where his counsel can best be followed by the hale or the sick—home. He thus strikes on a great vein of truth. The tree of medical science grows much nearer the cottage than most people imagine, and our dear household tenders are, after all, better doctors than many who take pride in imagined skill and can exhibit their diplomas."

THEORIES IN MEDICINE.

UNDER the above head, we have an excellent article in the Sept. number of the Middle States Med. Reformer, from the pen of Prof. Calkings. The following extract will please many of our readers. We cannot object to such Eclecticism as he advocates, and we only regret that our Philadelphia friends have a name that allows them to be confounded with the Western Eclectics. Here is the extract.

"If, by eclecticism we mean a little here, and a little there, a little pepper and a little mercury,—a little belladonna—and a little lobelia, now a little bleeding, a little leeching—and now a slight touch of the electric finger of Jove, without having any guiding principle by which to make the selection, never excluding anything, but imbibing everything, then surely eclecticism must resemble a garment made wholly of patches of all colors, and of all materials.—But if, on the contrary, we mean by the term eclectic, a selecting of those remedies which, while acting in such a manner upon the secretions and excretions, as to eliminate waste and poisonous matter from the system faster than nature could do, unaided by remedies, do not injure the tissues of the body, nor leave any ill effect after that action has ceased;—and also using as our guides in making our selection of remedies, the principles of physiology, and the idea that inflammation is not an exalted condition of vital action, but rather a depressed one, then there cannot, as the matter appears to my mind, be any objection to the use of the word Eclectic."

OUR patrons have been so prompt in sending us the dollars lately, that we have not felt like dunning the delinquents, but while so many have remembered us, there are a few who need to have their memories jogged a little. In some instances we have written on the wrapper "*send the dollar,*" be kind enough to do so, that we may decide whether to commence the fourth Volume with the prospect of being paid, as well as we have for the past.

DR. TRALL ON INFLAMMATION.

WHAT can Dr. Trall mean by saying that ' If Dr. Cook undertakes to demonstrate his position, he will in the end arrive at the conclusion that inflammation is not healthy action, but *remedial* action—an effort on the part of the organism to restore the normal condition ! ' What greater evidence can we want that inflammation is healthy, than that it is *remedial* ? how can an effort of the system to restore the normal condition be otherwise than healthy ? What is the mist and fog that surrounds our friend Trall ! We think a few cold douches or packs, would be beneficial in clearing out the cobwebs that surround his intellect.

FOURTH SESSION OF LECTURES IN THE METROPOLITAN MEDICAL COLLEGE.

If we can judge any thing of the attendance on our next course of Lectures by the numerous letters received from all parts of the country, we shall have a large class on the 16th of Oct. 1855. From the Circular which is published in this number of the Journal, our friends will see that we have made a fair statement of the advantages of our College, and that we have strong claims on the Reformed Medical Community for their patronage and co-operation.

We shall give the full course on Anatomy and Surgery, a number of Lectures equal to any other Professor, and they will be given during the first month of the Session, so that it is somewhat desirable for those students who intend to be present, to be punctual at the opening of the Session.

CIRCULAR OF THE METROPOLITAN MEDICAL COLLEGE.

We insert in this number the fourth annual announcement of our College. This Circular has been pretty extensively scattered among the Reformed physicians of the United States, and we have the best of reasons for believing that both our Winter and Summer Sessions will be well attended.

The fourth course will open as noticed on Tuesday, the 16th inst., at 7 o'clock, P. M. We hope to see a goodly number of students present on that occasion, and that the friends of the College will cheer us by their presence.

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE.

The first Lecture, introductory to the fourth Session of the Metropolitan Medical College will be delivered by Prof. I. M. Comings, on Tuesday evening the 16th of October, in the College Hall No. 68 East Broadway, New York. The public are invited, and the friends of medical Reform are especially solicited to attend. Per Order

H. M. SWEET, M. D., *Secretary of Board.*

GRADUATES OF THE METROPOLITAN MEDICAL COLLEGE.

We were pleased a few days ago to receive a private letter from A. C. Hardin, M. D., of Kentucky, one of the first graduates of our College. He is in successful practice in that state. Of the eight who composed this class we have heard from Dr. Ashford of Texas, who is fast becoming rich by a lucrative business; Dr. Mendenhall of Arkansas, in a flourishing practice; Dr. Christopher of Georgia, doing an excellent business, and Dr. Howe of this state, fast rising in popular favor. Thus scattered are our alumni, and all of them reaping the rewards of good and faithful servants. There is no road to wealth and distinction, or one that offers greater inducements to young men in all parts of the country, than that presented by the Metropolitan Medical College to her students. Medical Reform is becoming popular all over the land.

ECLECTIC REFORM IN MEDICINE.

THE Editor of the Worcester Journal of Medicine thinks with Prof. Cleaveland, that "Calomel may be used in perfect consistency with Medical Reform." Well, there are *two or three* others that think differently, that is all. "Doctors will disagree sometimes." Our correspondent and the Middle States Reformer have so well replied to the Worcester man, that we have nothing further to say, only, that it is another evidence that Eclectics do not oppose Calomel, and that the "slang about Calomel" was not "untrue."

PLATFORMS.—The editors of the Middle States Medical Reformer have so well replied to the Worcester Journal, that we have no occasion to notice the article on Platforms. We merely observe, if this Eclectic editor had some platform of principles to stand upon, or some well digested and well understood *physiological* rules to govern him, he would probably be far more successful in healing the sick, as well as more intelligible in his medical teachings.

BOOK NOTICES AND EXCHANGES.

An Essay on Acute Dysentery.—By Wm. H. Cook, M. D., This little work is written in a familiar and popular style, suited to the non professional reader, and calculated for family use.

There is nothing new or particularly interesting to the practical physician in this pamphlet, yet we bespeak for it a hearty welcome among the numerous families of those who advocate Reformed Medical Principles. Price 25 cts. per copy, to be obtained of Messrs. Law & Boyd, N. Y., or of the Author, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mercantile Guide and Family Journal.—This is among the most interesting weekly papers published in this city. It is devoted to American Interests, Literature, Arts, Agriculture and Miscellaneous news. Our country friends who want a good family paper, such as they can allow their whole family to read, will do well to subscribe for this. It is but \$1 per year in advance. Address W. E. Blakeney, No. 8 Spruce St., N. Y.

Christian Spiritualist.—This weekly organ of a large and increasing society for the diffusion of spiritual knowledge is published every Saturday morning at 553 Broadway, N. Y. The Christian Spiritualist is well conducted and one of the best papers advocating the views of those who are spiritualists. Terms, \$2 to mail subscribers. Ten Subscribers to one address \$10.

Buchanan's Journal of Man.—This monthly as usual is well filled with interesting matter for the Physiologist and Moralist. The editor is a much better Anthropologist than Eclectic. We think if he would confine himself to his legitimate province, that he would be more useful. The Journal of Man is only \$1 per year. Address J. R. Buchanan, Cincinnati, Ohio.

EXCERPTA.

Dr. Pond, of Rutland, Vt., has invented a pill-making machine, which will manufacture any quantity of those articles in a day. It only remains for some one to invent a machine to take those pills, and thus save a vast amount of the suffering and expense of humanity. Surely, here's a chance for some medical sprig to exercise his wits.

Of twelve American surgeons who have, within a few weeks, gone out to join the belligerent armies in Europe, nine have attached themselves to the service of the czar, and three have joined the allies. Others are on the point of starting for the Crimea.

☞ London papers announce the death of Dr. Archibald Arnott, in the 84th year of his age. He was Napoleon's last medical attendant. He entered the army upwards of sixty years ago, and retired from active service in 1826, during which time he shared the perils and exploits of his regiment on the Nile, in Calabria, Portugal, Spain and Holland. After the war, Dr. Arnott accompanied his brave companions to St. Helena and India, and at the former station became the medical attendant of Bonaparte, by whom he was regarded with the warmest affection and esteem. Napoleon expired with his right hand in that of Dr. Arnott.

☞ It is well known that the peculiar operation in surgery, known as the Cæsarian performance, cannot be performed in Paris, but must be undertaken in more salubrious quarters. But it has been ascertained, in addition, that not only in respect to that particular operation, but that in all others of a grave and perilous nature, which are constantly occurring, the influence of the air of Paris is injurious. In confirmation of this fact, the surgeons of the city of Strasburg are cited, who, it appears, have a proportion of success at least double that of those of Paris, in the amputation of limbs.

☞ From recent official investigation, it appears that medicines and diet compounds, in England, are largely subject to falsification. For example, epsom salts are adulterated with Glauber's salt, mercury with lead, tin and bismuth, gentian with the poisons aconite and belladonna, codliver and castor oils with common oils, opium in various ways. Half the arrow-root in the shops is mere potato starch or sago meal; oat meal is deteriorated with barley meal; honey, with flour starch and sugar; and the whole catalogue of farinaceous food is similarly tampered with.

☞ M. Flourens, a distinguished French medical author, observes, in one of his recent works, that infancy proper ceases at ten years, because then the second toothing is complete; boyhood at twenty, because then the bones cease to increase in size. Enlargement of bulk after that period consists chiefly in the accumulation of fat. The real development of the parts of the body has already ceased. Instead of increasing their strength and activity, this latter growth weakens the body and retards its motions. Then when growth has ceased, the body rests, rallies, and becomes invigorated.

Dr. Turnipseed, of Tennessee, who has been for fourteen months in the Russian service in Sebastopol, has obtained leave to return home on account of ill health. The emperor conferred on him the order of St. Ann, in consideration of his valuable services, and presented him 700 rubles as a token

of personal regard. It is understood that American physicians and surgeons are highly appreciated by the Russian government, which is anxious to employ more of them. This opens a fine field for ambitious young M. D.'s to perfect themselves in patching up shattered humanity.

In France, where there is a settlement or clearing for a medical practitioner, the prefect publishes the names of four rural districts which needs a doctor, and offers a prize of forty dollars to the first physician who establishes himself in each of the localities mentioned. It is true that the population are unable to pay for advice, and will settle for visits by returning them; but the budget contains, for these four districts, the sum of 2,200 francs, to be divided into tickets of ten sous each, which the doctors will take in payment, and the treasury will redeem.

☞ The American Congress of Dentists assembled in Philadelphia last week, and delegations from all parts of the world are attending it. The sessions thus far have been private. Among the subjects offered for discussion is the propriety of administering chloroform to patients.

☞ A prevalent disease in Harlem, marked by the swelling of the lips and tongue, eruptions of the palate, &c., attended by great irritation, is ascribed to the use of the milk of diseased cows.

☞ Dr. G. Fields has been convicted of manslaughter in Columbus county, N. C., and has been sentenced to be branded and to the prison.

☞ The disorder known as the "clergyman's sore throat" made its appearance in this country, so far as is known, in 1810, and the attention of the medical profession was first drawn to it as a distinct disease in 1832. Some have supposed its origin to have had a hidden connexion with the epidemic cholera, which spread over the world in 1830. In its early development, it attacked notice chiefly by its visitation upon the throats of the clergy; hence its popular name of "clergyman's sore throat." It was soon found, however, to attack all classes of persons.

☞ The "Opinione," of Turin, relates that all the boarders of the college at Belice were lately taken suddenly ill. The physicians who were called in, thinking that the persons were attacked with cholera, applied the remedies usual with that disease, but without effect, and fifty died. It afterwards appeared, from a post mortem examination, that they had all been laboring under the poisonous effects of hemlock, which had been unintentionally used in the kitchen instead of parsley.

THE
Journal of Medical Reform.

NOVEMBER, 1855.

Original Communications.

ALCOHOL AS A MEDICINE.

No. 3.

BY PROF. I. M. COMINGS.

If the remarks we have made in the foregoing numbers are true, it is evident, that alcohol used in less quantities than sufficient to produce intoxication, is not without injury to the integrity of the physiological condition of the tissues of external relation. For, as it possesses no nutrimental matter in itself, it only excites and irritates, or spurs onward the functional organization, hence the system becomes languid and exhausted, so that it but imperfectly performs the office required.

In such a state, cold, and other exciting causes, have greater effect in "lighting up disease," as this morbid sensibility induces a predisposition to diseased action. This is proved from the fact that alcohol easily combines with water, and is sometimes absorbed by the venous radicals of the digestive mucus tissues, and passes the portal system, or through the liver, to the brain, as well as to other organs.

The whole system suffers,—the liver,—the stomach,—and the brain, however, bear a greater weight of injury than the others, and from these points we find the whole man fails. Darwin has grouped some of these maladies in the following lines:—

"Drink deep, she carols as she moves in air,
The mantling globet, and forget your care,
O'er the dread feast malignant chemia scowls,
And mingles poison in the nectared bowls.

Fell gout peeps grinning through the slimy scene,
And bloated dropsy pants behind, unseen;
Wrapped in robe, white lepra hides his stains,
And heated pleurisy, writhing, bites his chains."

It is very evident that alcohol, even in medicinal doses, acts injuriously upon the human frame, from the fact that it does not become *assimilated*, or become a constituent part of the organization; it remains alcohol still in the blood.

When food is taken into the stomach, it is first changed into a pulpy mass, called *chyme*, it then passes along and the nutritious portions become *chyle*, this is taken up by the lacteals, and is the nourishment of the blood, by which the whole man is supported. Now alcohol does not impart any nourishment; in fact, it is only in peculiar cases that it goes into the blood at all, for if it did we should have one hundred cases of delirium tremens where we have one now.

Alcohol is usually thrown off by those organs which are set as waste gates to the system, because it is already supplied with fluid enough. This excess of liquid must weaken the digestive power of the stomach, by diluting the gastric juice to some extent, but more particularly by the debilitating effect which alcohol has in exhausting the excitability of the digestive organs.

But when alcohol enters the circulation, as it does in some cases, unchanged in its character, we then witness the symptoms of delirium tremens, and those horrid depredations which this state produces on some constitutions.

Magendie made some experiments on animals by which he clearly proved, that alcoholic liquors do violence to the absorbents, and that they do not become assimilated. The cases of spontaneous combustion plainly prove this. It has also been found in the ventricles of the brain, and in the blood when drawn from the arm of the delirium patient.

It is unnecessary to go into further particulars in drawing a contrast between water and alcohol as beverages. The temperance casket has been opened, and many jewels of great price have been shown; that of alcohol has also been unlocked, and the more numerous gems lodged there for safe keeping are turned to dust and ashes. Alcohol, that promised to preserve, has been the slow devouring fire to consume them. The human system will often withstand an occasional dose, even a heavy dose of poison, and recover from its effects; but the stoutest frame will sink under its daily use in portions ever so small. Some professional men, classed as temperate, occasionally partook of that slow but potent poison to the blood, alcohol, but let a sufficient time intervene to recover from its effects before taking more; and it appears that they have long since renounced it. It is the daily use of alcohol—particularly between meals—though in quantities regarded as small, which is so highly pernicious.

In the progress of physiological investigation an important fact has been developed, that those, who use water as a beverage, consume more oxygen, than those who partake of spirituous liquors. Although the physical effect of alcohol in diminishing the quantity of oxygen consumed was known to Prout and others and may be found recorded by Dunglison in his article on respiration, yet its value, as an overwhelming argument against alcoholic beverages in every form, is not clearly seen, but will be, when certain late revelations, made by the crocodile on the dissecting table, become generally known and have time to correct some fundamental errors which have crept into physiology in regard to the motive power of the blood and the primary seat of life. They prove, that the oxygen of the air is the chief motive power of the blood, and that fluid is the primary seat of life as Moses said it was.

There is perhaps no way more feasible in showing the injurious effects of alcohol as a medicine, than to describe its physiological, or rather pathological inroads upon the human organization. We have proved it to be a poison, now let us see what this poison does.

The effects of alcohol on the stomach is first to irritate its mucous lining, and over excite its nerves and secretory vessels, so as to create a morbid appetite for food beyond the wants of the system : causing the bloated and inflamed appearance we see in many persons. If the stimulant is continued, inflammatory patches and ulcerous spots break out in the interior of the stomach, accompanied by a vitiated state of the gastric juice, and a diminished appetite and power of digestion. If the habit is persevered in this is followed by a still more diseased state of the stomach ; such as inflammation, dyspeptic spasms, morning vomiting, spitting of blood, and ulcerated states of its interior.

The bowels are not only affected by this inflamed and diseased state of the stomach, but they are otherwise injured ; first, by the alcohol weakening the fibres of the pylorus it permits the undigested to pass out and irritate them ; secondly, by its coagulating and fermenting the food in the stomach it also tends to disorder them ; thirdly, by its rendering the bile less alkaline it ceases to be a proper stimulant for promoting the healthy action of the bowels, which leads to a costive habit of body, and that state too frequently to other diseases. It also often brings on (more especially in females) such an irritable state of the intestines, as to produce an almost constant state of diarrhoea.

Diseases of the liver are common and notorious among those who indulge in the use of intoxicating drinks ; and more especially among those of sedentary habits, or who work in-doors. The alcoholized blood, being almost immediately conveyed to the liver, tends to inflammatory disease, in consequence of the excess of carbon to be removed, as well as from the acrid nature of the alcohol.

The liver thus constantly over-gorged with venous blood, and in-

flamed by over-exertion, becomes at last soft and flaccid in its texture, and weak and torpid in its functions. The diseases sometimes causing it to expand to double its size, with a fatty degenerate kind of matter deposited between its lobes, and at other times causing it to waste away considerably below its usual dimensions.

A peculiar disease of this organ, in which it becomes granulous, or full of small brown tubercles, while its surface is covered with small hard prominences, is called, the "hobnailed," or "gin-drinker's liver," from its being so common among drunkards.

In hot weather, and in hot countries, all these diseases are aggravated ; by reason of the atmosphere being so rarified that the same volume of air does not contain the same quantity of oxygen to burn off the excess of carbon which intoxicating drink occasions.

The kidneys, being like the liver depurating organs, are subject to similar inflammatory and degenerating diseases, from the use of intoxicating drinks ; such as enlargement and change of structure, granular deposit, and general derangement. From their impaired functions, as well as from mineral and acid substances combined in different drinks, serious diseases of another description arise, such as gravelly deposits and stony concretions in the bladder,—diseases exceedingly dangerous, and accompanied with pain of the most intense nature. These last diseases are common among wine and porter drinkers.

Diseases of the lungs, both acute and chronic, are also prevalent among those who indulge in intoxicating drinks. Consumptive disease is induced by a vitiated state and obstructed circulation of the blood ; such as is produced by strong drinks. An inflammatory state of the lungs is frequently occasioned by the acrid nature of the blood, and the fumes of the drink, irritating the delicate lining of the air-vesicles and bronchial tubes ; rendering the whole organs highly susceptible of changes of temperature, and consequent disease. And nervous affection, and diminished action of the lungs are produced by the pernicious effect of alcohol on the nerves of respiration.

The heart and blood-vessels are also liable to disease from the use of those drinks. The irregular circulation caused by the alcohol, and its effects on their interior, producing frequent inflammation, tends to weaken the elasticity of the arteries, and to ossify the valves of the heart ; giving rise to palpitations, anurisms, and other maladies.

The secretory glands, nerves, and vessels of the skin, have their functions also impaired by alcohol, which prevents noxious matter from escaping, and renders the skin more susceptible of cold ; than producing eruptive and cutaneous disorder, the evidences of which are frequently seen in the blotched face and pimpled red nose of the sot.

The brain, however, the most important of all the organs of the body, is most seriously affected by intoxicating drink ; its indulgence

not only tending to undermine the strongest constitution, but to destroy, mentally and morally, the most highly gifted of mankind.

The immediate effect of alcohol on the brain is to excite the passions into activity, and weaken the power of self-control; while every subsequent indulgence gives the morbid craving for drink a gradual ascendancy till it has acquired a mastery, and too often prostrated the nobler powers of the man below the level of the brute.

Alcohol being conveyed to the brain, in the current of the blood, the character of which it alters by its poisonous nature, causes the serous, or watery, portion to penetrate the sides of the vessels into the surrounding tissues. This, combined with alcohol, operating on the delicate membranes, vessels, and medullary matter of the brain, irritates, hardens and injures them; and eventually destroys their functions. Moreover, as every operation of the brain is accompanied by waste, it needs pure blood to nourish and repair it, instead of the poisonous fluid described; which pure blood not being afforded, the brain consequently suffers. Hence by these joint effects the brain is gradually impaired; and imbecility, insanity, delirium tremens, and other mental diseases induced.

Seeing, then, that the use of intoxicating drink tends to inflame, corrupt, and disease the whole bodily structure,—that every moderate indulgence of it served to create a morbid appetite in its favor, and step by step to weaken the power of self control,—that the strong and the weak have equally become its victims,—that it forms the prolific source of most of the diseases that afflict us,—that half of the crimes committed can be traced to the love of drink,—that it dries up, or poisons the fount of education,—that it saps the mental and moral stamina of our people, and forms the great barrier to all social and political progress,—perceiving all this, are we not morally bound, not only to avoid the temptation ourselves, but by precept and example to dissuade others against so insidious an enemy.

And we may, with the most unhesitating confidence enquire, if such are the effects of this poison when taken as a beverage, how can it have the properties of a medicine, to heal the debilitated and diseased organization.

In our next number we will examine the objections to the notions we have heretofore advanced.

68 East Broadway, New York.

 The alum springs of Virginia are said to be an invaluable remedy in the cure of all scrofulous and cutaneous diseases, lupus and other malignant ulcerations of the mouth and throat, chronic diseases of the digestive organs, dyspepsia, diseases of the liver, diabetes, chronic inflammation and irritation of the kidneys, and diseases peculiar to females.

LOUIS CARNARO, OR HOW TO GET WELL AND KEEP WELL WITHOUT MEDICINE.

BY J. B. SPIERS, M. D.

It is generally understood that Louis Carnaro lived to a good old age, and as facts and examples will generally have more weight than theorizing, or even sound reasoning where it is against the inclinations, I will present some of the circumstances in connection with the long life of this remarkable man.

He died in the ninety-ninth year of his age, as we are informed by his biographer. Here are his own words : "The heavy train of infirmities which had not only invaded, but made great inroads on my constitution, were my motives for renouncing intemperance, to which I had been greatly addicted ; so that, in consequence of it, and the badness of my constitution, my stomach being exceedingly cold and moist, I was fallen into different kinds of diseases, such as pains in my stomach, and often stiches and species of gout, attended by, what was still worse, an almost continual slow fever, a stomach generally out of order, and a perpetual thirst. From these matured and acquired disorders, the best delivery I had hope for was death, to put an end to the pains and miseries of life. Finding myself, therefore, in such unhappy circumstances between my thirty-fifth and fortieth year, every thing that could be thought of having been tried to no purpose to relieve me, the physicians gave me to understand, that there was but one method left to get rid of my complaints, provided I would resolve to use it, and patiently persevere in it. This was *a sober and regular life*. They added that if I did not immediately have recourse to such a regimen, I could receive no benefit from it in a few months, and in a few more I must resign myself to death."

The directions now given were, that he should use no food, solid or liquid, but such as was generally prescribed for sick people, and use that very sparingly. "These directions," he adds, "to say the truth, had been given me before ; but it was at a time of life when, impatient of such restraint, and finding myself satiated, as it were, with such food, I could not put up with it, and therefore eat freely of every thing I liked best ; and likewise, feeling myself in a manner parched up by the heat of my disease, made no scruple in drinking, and in large quantities, the wines that best pleased my palate. This indeed like all other patients, I kept secret from my physicians, but when I had once resolved to live sparingly, and according to the dictates of reason, seeing that it was no difficult matter, nay, that it was my duty as a man to do so, I entered with so much resolution upon this new course of life, that nothing has since been able to divert me from it. The consequence was, that in a few days I began to perceive that the course agreed with me very well ; and by pur-

suing it, in less than a year I found myself entirely freed from all my complaints."

He also put to the test the maxim, "that whatever the appetite craves, or would please the palate is best for the stomach. This maxim he once thought was true ; but after a fair trial on his own stomach, he says :

"Having thus convinced myself, that the proverb in question was false, I looked upon it as such ; and, taught by experience, I gave over the use of such meats and wines, and likewise ice." He says that he constantly rose from the table with a disposition to eat and drink more.

One author in speaking of Carnaro says, that he "owed his health and long life more to quantity than to quality." That is, he always kept a good appetite by never eating as much as his appetite would take. But few will believe how small a quantity will suffice to keep a person in good health, especially persons who take but little exercise. "I hope my friends will govern their stomachs by their intellectual faculties, as Conaro did, and thus make their stomachs administer health to their bodies."

But now the question arises, what effect did Carnaro's great regularity and strict temperance in eating and drinking produce ? And did he not soon get tired of living such a strict life of self denial ? Perhaps this cannot be better answered than by giving his own words. After having had time to make a pretty fair trial of his abstemious course, he says, "In consequence, therefore, of my taking such methods, I have always (since adopting this method) enjoyed, and (God be praised) actually enjoy, the best of health. It is, indeed, true that besides the two foregoing rules relative to eating and drinking, which I have ever been very scrupulous to observe—that is not to take any thing, but as much as my stomach can easily digest, and to use those things only which agree with me—I have carefully avoided heat, cold, and extraordinary fatigue, interruption of my usual hours of rest, excessive venery, making any stay in bad air, and exposing myself to the wind and sun ; for these, also, are great disorders."

Although it was not his custom to expose himself to extremes of heat and cold any more than he could avoid, yet he was sometimes very much exposed ; but he tells us that owing to his general course these occasional exposures done him but very little injury, only gave him a day or two's uneasiness sometimes.

These observations and conclusions of Carnaro are worthy of our attention and regard. They are not conclusions hastily drawn, as is frequently the case concerning things of importance ; but he has made a trial of them for more than forty years, being at the time of writing them in his eighty-third year.

Cornaro had difficulties to contend with, as well as other people, things that are calculated to press down the infirm and aged ; but

he informs us that he was not pressed down by them. "Thus," says he, "it is plain, that neither melancholy nor any other affection of the mind can hurt bodies governed with temperance and regularity." "The life that I lead," says he, "is cheerful and not gloomy, as some persons pretend, who know no better." He says that now at eighty-three years of age he had a better voice for singing clearer and louder than at any former period of his life. At eighty-six years of age he writes : "O what a difference there is between a regular and irregular life ! One gives longevity and health, the other produces diseases and untimely deaths." "Nor do I find myself the worse for writing immediately after meals ; nor is my understanding ever clearer ; nor am I apt to be drowsy ; the food I take being in too small a quantity to send up any fumes to the brain. O how advantageous it is for an old man to eat but little. Accordingly, I who know it, eat just enough to keep body and soul together." At ninety-five years of age he writes : "What a comfort is this, that old as I am, I should be able, without the least fatigue, to study the most important, sublime, and difficult subjects. Nor is it possible, that any one should grow tired of so great a comfort and blessing as this which I really enjoy ; and which every one else might enjoy by leading the life I have led—an example which every one else has it in his power to follow ; for I am but a mere man and no saint, a servant of God, to whom so regular a life is exceedingly agreeable."

Do you wish, reader, to get well and enjoy health ? then remember the example set before you by Louis Carnaro, and regard the advice given.

Petersburg, Va., June, 1855.

A CONSUMPTION HOSPITAL IN NEW YORK.

BY JAMES MARKS, D. D.

PROF. COMINGS ; Dear Sir,—I have noticed with great pleasure a movement now on foot, under the fostering care of the legislature of the state of New York, for the establishment of an institution to be known as "The New York Consumption Hospital." The object is to provide an asylum for the consumptive, where his physical and moral condition will be alike the care of the physician and the philanthropist, and where he may be surrounded by influences favorable to health and restoration.

With regard to the prosperity and necessity of such an institution the authority of Dr. Rush is quoted, together with various other eminent and philanthropic medical men, who have favored such a project.

Dr. Rush says that "there are in New York and its vicinity near

one million of inhabitants, and that we have no separate public institution devoted to the treatment of one of the most formidable and fatal diseases is a fact much to be regretted."

The trustees of this institution are Robert B. Minturn, Dr. Thomas D. Andrews, James Harper, Zadock Pratt, John C. Greene, Peter Cooper, E. D. Morgan. These gentlemen for the purpose named are authorized to hold real estate in value not exceeding \$250,000, and are required to receive under their charge all the cases of pulmonary consumption or persons suffering from diseases of the air passages, which may be assigned to them or their care by the authorities either of counties or towns, and to give them proper medical treatment. This institution is not designed to conflict with any other for the benefit of the consumptive. There is nothing, I believe, of the kind or similar to it in this country. Every where goes up the wail of suffering humanity, of diseased and prostrate fellow men. From every side comes the cry for help. They are rewarded who are the true workers, and are blessed in giving and in giving are blessed ; and, in conclusion, I would say, come over and help us in this noble work of relieving suffering man.

213 Bowery, New York.

CASE OF MALIGNANT ERYSIPelas.

BY J. EARLE, M. D.

MR. EDITOR.—The following case may be worthy of reporting for your Journal.

Mrs. W—., aged 55, while picking berries scratched a little boil located on the left side of the ankle about three inches above the joint. She thought nothing of it for some days, but at length it became very painful. While in the woods she tasted an herb unknown to her, which poisoned her mouth, so that her tongue was swollen. This, however, soon subsided, and then the limb began to swell. The boil disappeared, and a kind of blister arose. This seemed to adhere firmly to the flesh and flattened down, became white and insensible, so that the scab could be scraped off. The limb had the appearance of a burn or a scald ; there was no discharge. Three Allopathic physicians had been consulted before I was called. One of them pronounced it a "*rheumatic humor !*" Another said it was a scrofulous humor ! The third said it was irritation of the veins, and would cause her death by hemorrhage. What profound wisdom in diagnosis (?) was here manifest !

I found the limb considerably swollen ; with several blue spots, also, some fifteen or twenty vesicles with a yellowish point and a blue base—the foot cold, with a doughy feel—leg edematious to the knee, and of a shiny appearance ; headache and nausea ; appetite

good, and the patient was able to be about some—the pain very severe on motion—less swollen in the morning.

Sep. 4th. Commenced the treatment of this case ; applied stimulating and relaxing poultices. On the 5th, I bathed the whole leg below the knee with a powerful liniment, composed of No. 6, 3rd preparation, and Camphor, as the foot was cold and numb. After this I applied a poultice of Lobelia Seed and Capsicum. 7th. The limb is still swollen, blue spots all gone, uniform redness over the whole limb ; the pustules discharge a thin, transparent, foetid fluid ; foot warm ; sensibility returned. Continued poultices at night and washed the limb with decoction of maple bark and applied the leaves of the same instead of the poultice ; considerable smarting and pain to day ; appetite rather poor.

8th. Swelling is fast going away and limb better ; continued the above treatment ; washed sores with diluted creosote. From commencement of treatment gave alterative medicines, and every night the compound lobelia pill.

10th. Patient still improving, except diarrhoea to day ; gave Rhubarb, which checked this.

12th. Found patient better, and dismissed her cured, of this "*incurable*" disease.

Scio, N. Y.

APPARATUS FOR INJECTING THE BLADDER.

A very ingenious and convenient instrument, employed by Wm. Collingwood, is described in the London Medical Times and Gazette, June 16, 1855.

"It consists of a piece of elastic tubing, the size of a quill, and about four feet long, to one end of which a little India-rubber funnel is attached, its opposite end terminating in a widened opening. The latter is fitted over the end of the catheter, which it grasps tightly, accommodating itself to any size. When all is ready, the funnel end is held up at arm's length, and water is simply poured in from a jug. The pressure of the column of fluid suffices to fill the bladder, without the least shaking of the catheter, or other inconvenience. If it is wished to empty the bladder again, all that is necessary is to let the funnel fall into a proper utensil. Besides those just mentioned, the apparatus has great advantages in simplicity, cheapness, portability, etc., over the syringe, and might well take the place of the latter in lithotripsy cases. It may easily be carried in the waist-coat pocket, and there is nothing in it likely to excite the fears of the most timid patient. It possesses a further merit of being easily convertible to other uses than that for which it was originally intended ; as for instance in evacuating the female bladder ; if the tube

pressing means. Any approximation towards the truth is better than the divergence that has heretofore been so characteristic of the Allopathic branch of the profession.

203 Canal Street, New York.

"PLATFORM AND PRINCIPLES."

BY H. FEARN, M. D.

MR. EDITOR.—It is as we said in the last number of the Journal, that the editor of the Worcester Journal is involved in a thick mist and beating at every straw that he sees, continually betraying his ignorance of the subject he is attempting to ignore. For instance, he said "we did not object to *principles*, but to *platforms*." And what, in the name of common sense, are *platforms*? I was taught that apples are apples, whether in a bushel basket or on the tree where they grew—whether separate and scattered around the floor or in the market for sale—their position does not, it appears to me, make quinces of them. He says, "truth has no need of the support of a platform!" Who said it had? "Our aim was not against truth or *sound principles*, but against creeds and platform." What deep philosophy! If Webster were living, we think he might say, he had not the "capacity" to understand such *deep logic*! What are platforms but the simple statement of principles expressed in intelligible language?

Selectiōns.

APPETITE.

"*Asking for*," that is the meaning. Who asks? *Nature*; in other words, the law of our being, the instinct of self-preservation, wisely and benevolently implanted in every living thing, whether animal, worm, or weed.

Yielding to this appetite is the preservation of all life, and health, below man; he alone exceeds it, and in consequence sickens and dies thereby, long before his prime, in countless instances.

The fact is not recognized as generally as it ought to be, that a proper attention to the "*askings*" of nature, not only maintains health, but is one of the safest, surest, and most permanent methods of curing disease.

It is eating without an appetite, which in many instances is the last pound which breaks the camel's back; nature had taken away the appetite, had closed the house for necessary repairs, but, in spite of her, we "*forced down some food*," and days and weeks and

months of illness followed, if not cholera, cramp, colic, or sudden death.

In disease, there are few who cannot recall instances, where a person was supposed to be in a dying condition, and in the delirium of fever, or otherwise, had arisen, and gone to the pail or pitcher, and drank an enormous quantity of water, or have gone to the pantry, and eaten largely of some unusual food, and forthwith began to recover. We frequently speak of persons getting well having the *strongest kind of an appetite*, the indulgence of which reason and science would say would be fatal.

We found out many years ago, when engaged in the general practice of medicine, that when the patient was convalescing, the best general rule was, *eat not an atom you do not relish; eat anything in moderation which your appetite craves, from a pickle down to sole-leather*. Nature is like a perfect house-keeper; she knows better what is wanting in her house than anybody else can tell her. The body in disease craves that kind of food which contains the element it most needs. This is one of the most important facts in human hygiene; and yet we do not recollect to have ever seen it embodied in so many words. We have done so, to render it practical; and to make it remembered, we state a fact of recent occurrence.

Some three years ago, a daughter of James Damon, of Chesterfield, fell down a flight of stairs, bringing on an illness from which it was feared she would not recover. She did however recover, except the loss of hearing and sight. Her appetite for some weeks called for nothing but raisins and candy, and since last fall, nothing but apples were eaten. A few weeks ago she commenced eating maple buds; since which time she has nearly regained her former health and activity, and her sight and hearing are restored.

We all, perhaps, have observed that cats and other animals, when apparently ill, go out and crop a particular grass or weed. In applying these facts, let us remember to indulge this "*asking for*" of Nature, in sickness especially, in moderation; feeling our way along by gradually increasing amounts; thus keeping on the safe side. We made this one of our earliest and most inflexible rules of practice.—*Hall's Journal of Health.*

A PHYSICIAN'S LIFE TIME.

IF a young graduate on the day of first opening an office, will school himself to look wise and say nothing, have a cast of brass made for his face, encase his hide, heart, and conscience with the skin of a rhinoceros, he will infallibly get practice, grow rich, and live a long time. But if he begins his professional career with a determination to do all he possibly can to save the life of the one

intrusted to him, even at the peril of his own, to abhor all pretence and trickery, and to act with candid conscientiousness towards those who repose confidence in him, the result will be poverty and a premature death, in a very large number of cases ; and this is the reason why so many physicians of education and talent either fail to live by their profession or die before their time, in the vain struggle for that respectable style of living which belongs to their calling. No class of men, the clergy not excepted, give as much pecuniary aid in proportion to their means, to suffering humanity, as a physician engaged in the general practice of medicine, and no class of men are as often and as grossly imposed upon. Dr. Mott, the Nestor of our profession, once remarked, and with great truth, to a graduating class : “ *Young gentlemen, have two pockets made, a large one to hold the insults, and a small one for the fees.*”—*Hall’s Journal of Health.*

EATING TOO MUCH.

WHAT countless thousands it puts into the doctor’s pockets, furnishes his splendid mansion in Union Square and Fifth Avenue, enables him to “ sport his carriage,” to own a villa on the banks of the Hudson, and live in style to the end of the chapter !

“ *I can’t help it,*” says the poor unfortunate milk-and-water individual, who never had decision enough to do a deed worthy of remembrance an hour later. My wiskey-waskey friend, suppose I help you to avoid making a beast of yourself.

Have two articles of food sent to your room, besides bread and butter, with half a glass of cold water. I will give you permission to eat as much as you want, thus, thrice a day. Or if you prefer eating with company, you may safely sit down to the “ *best table* ” in the land, if you have manhood enough to partake of but any two articles. *It is the variety of our food which brutifies us.*—*Hall’s Journal of Health.*

“ DON’T SLEEP WELL.”

SINCE the *fullest* amount of sleep is as essential to the healthful working of mind and body as necessary food, it may be well to know how to secure it, as a general rule.

1. Clarify your conscience.
2. Take nothing later than two o’clock, P. M., except some bread and butter, and a small cup of weak tea of any kind, or half a glass of water, for supper.

3. Go to bed at some regular early hour. Get up the moment you wake of yourself, even if at midnight.

4. Do not sleep an instant in the day time.

Unless your body is in a condition to require special medical advice, nature will regulate your sleep to the wants of the system, in less than a month ; and you will not only go to sleep at once, but will sleep soundly. "*Second naps*" and siestas make the mischief. *Hall's Journal of Health.*

A FEW WORDS ABOUT UNION.

WE have received a lengthy letter from a much respected friend, who says, among other things : "I think you could help on the cause of true Medical Reform faster by uniting yourselves with all those who are laboring to push forward the car. There is too little good feeling among us. Why don't you put an end to contention, and all join together in the good cause ?"

This is just what we are trying to do ; and we most earnestly hope that the whole world may yet be "joined together" under the banner of "true Medical Reform." Few things would afford us greater pleasure than to see such a union effected ; hence it has ever been, now is, and will ever continue to be, our aim to harmonize and connect into one all those who are bearing a "true" part in the progressive enterprise.

But a very important question here arises, namely, What is "the good cause"? what is "true Medical Reform"? As it is upon these things that our friend would have us unite, it is first necessary to understand what is meant by them. We understand the "good cause" to be the cause of TRUTH, and "true Medical Reform" to be the advancement of that truth to the rejection of all error. We believe there are certain fixed, positive and unchangeable laws of physiology, pathology and therapeutics, which underlie, and should give direction to, the whole science and art of medicine. These laws are God-made, hence are eternal, and form the essence and substance of all medical truth. To "help on the cause," therefore, is, in our view, to teach this truth in all its purity, to preserve it from becoming intermixed with sophistry and error, and to promulgate a knowledge of it till all mankind shall be made to understand and realize the advantages of obeying it. We know of nothing but such truth for which man should labor. We have given ourselves up to its support, and, while we admit minor differences of opinion and question no one for the minutiae of his actions, are only willing to enter into a covenant with those who see, and are ready to be guided by, those fundamental laws which have been written by the finger of God upon the broad tablet of creation. With all such we will join heart and hand, being both prepared and anxious to be incor-

be fitted to the end of the catheter, the urine may be conveyed away by the flexible tube, without any need for introducing the utensil into the bed."

NOTES FROM MY POCKET BOOK.

DR. STONE ON YELLOW FEVER.

BY H. FEARN, M. D.

October the third. Dr. Stone, of New Orleans, in a lecture before the New York Academy of Medicine, rendered the following conclusions, as the result of twenty-two years experience in the investigation of and best mode of treating the Yellow Fever.

He had no theory about it ; but from a thorough study, with very extensive opportunities of investigating, both in the public Hospital of that place and in private practice, he had come to the following conclusions : "it is a specific form of disease, not contagious—all classes are subject to it, those born in the district where it prevails being as liable to have it as those from other locations, none are proof against it but those who are acclimated—persons who have had it and remove to another part of the globe and return at any period afterwards seem to be still proof against it ; its recurrence may happen just as small pox does ; it is the same in every latitude where it appears ; is not confined to the low more than high lands ; its cause may be generated on ship board ; it is not, as has been asserted, affected in its duration by the frost ; it runs its course in the patient from twelve hours to three days, if proper cleanliness with hygienic means be attended to. The patient will recover, or the disease run its course better without doctoring than with it, as the results of the practice of those who pretend to cure it fully prove. The symptoms are those of fever in general, as chilly sensations, creeping all over the body, great pain in the back, legs and forehead over the superciliary ridge, great prostration of the nervous system."

Pathology.—It has nothing distinctive—post mortems disclosing no inflammation, thickening, softening, or erosion of the mucus membrane of the stomach, as has been asserted, that will distinguish it from death by other causes. His experience in the dead house while connected with the hospital, fully satisfied him that those who look into a stomach once in a while, were not able to judge on this point, because they were not sufficiently familiar with its appearances, and he had always found that those who had particular theories could or would look sufficient to satisfy themselves, by either real or imaginary facts and go not one step further.

Prognosis,—Unfavorable when there is much delirium. If fear was not so rife in the masses it would be more favorable.

Predisposing Causes,—Fear, over exertion, exposure to cold, and every thing which has a tendency to over excite or depress the system will predispose to this affection during the time of its prevalence.

Treatment,—should consist in assisting nature, by keeping the system as calm as possible, preventing all unnecessary conversation or anything which is calculated to disturb ; cleanliness in all things must be strictly observed, ventilation must be properly attended to, fresh air being admitted without making a draft, wrap the patient up in a Blanket, not as some have done, in five or six and thereby exhausting the patient's strength, warm pediluvia, bathing the surface over with water that will be pleasant to the patient's feelings with reference to temperature, a full dose of Quinine at the outset will very much assist the diaphoresis, it is not however to be repeated, be careful and not allow the patient's hands to be uncovered for in the most favorable cases it will cause a relapse which will be followed by black vomit and death, give a moderate amount of water to drink if called for, when there is excruciating pain in the temples the dry cups will generally relieve. Those who pretend to *cure* it either with Calomel or Bloodletting are only helping the disease, not the patient. The reason Quinine had so much said against it, is because it has been used empirically, it has not been found well to follow it up.

The great object is to keep the patient, as well as the treatment, from extremes, support his strength by proper nourishment. If he does not convalesce after going through this, he must have stimulants, warm pediluvia, general bathing, essence of beef, *in fact support him thoroughly* and sometimes he dies in spite of all treatment and sometimes he lives in spite of doctors and treatment too.

September 24th, Bellevue Hospital. In one word there was some half dozen cases of Typhus, one which had all through been complicated with Bronchitis. They have all been treated on the stimulating plan—Prof. Barker said to the amount of from 18 to 24 ounces of whiskey daily. He said the result surpassed all they had ever anticipated ; he says :

" You know that the usual treatment, when the patient is delirious, is to abstract large amounts of blood ; but since Dr. Stokes in his valuable monograph has clearly proved that the *materies morbi*, and not the mere amount of blood, was the cause of delirium, the treatment is altered, and you see with very great improvement. The treatment is to equalize the circulation, by applying ice to the head, and giving stimulants as before said, and strengthening diet, essence of beef, &c. The ice is only applied during the interval that the delirium is present, of course ; but the stimulants are kept up all the time : no cathartics if there is no movement for a week."

It is very gratifying to the Reformer to see even impure stimulants used, instead of undermining the patient's constitution by de-

porated with them, and most earnestly willing to "put an end to contention," wherever any exists between us. Surely, no one can ask us to do more.

But here we will be asked, "What do you understand to be the truth? What constitutes your creed in medical science?" For an answer, we refer to the platform of Medical Principles established in the United States Convention in Baltimore, in 1852. That platform embraces what we consider to be the foundation principles of medicine; hence we adopt it as our guide. We believe those principles to be veritable truths, as immutable as all other truths, and therefore a proper basis upon which to rest our faith and practice. If any will convince us of our error in this belief, and prove that the views set forth in the Baltimore Platform are false, we will agree to forsake them immediately, and also give the exponent of an opposite faith the free use of our columns to teach the contrary doctrines. But no writer has yet done, or even sought to do, this thing in any better way than by a ludicrous sneer, which betrays both his folly and incivility. We are, therefore, left to maintain the entire correctness of those principles; and, as *belief* is with us a motive to *action*, we are compelled to press them upon the world with all the energy of which we are capable. And not only so, but we have united ourselves with others who hold to the same faith and labor for the same ends. The faculty of the Botanico-Medical College of Georgia, of the Metropolitan College of New York, of the Botanic College of Tennessee, together with some thousands of physicians and many hundreds of thousands of the people, rest, with ourselves, upon the Baltimore Platform. We are knit together in the spirit of that platform, hoping for its advancement and working for its triumph, willing at all times to unite with every one who will come boldly upon the same stand, and not willing to unite medically with any other.

But our friend, of the above letter, and many others whom we hold in equal respect, think we should extend the feeling of fraternization further, and take into our household the several Eclectic faculties and schools of the land. They think that such a union would secure the more rapid advancement of "the cause," and more speedily put an end to the murderous sway of Allopathy. To see an end to the system of butchery that has been so long in vogue would indeed be a feast to our soul; but when we are urged to join ourselves with the Eclectics, and to advise our friends to the same course, with the hope of thereby securing so desirable a consummation, we pause to make an examination. *First*, we find the Eclectic Medical Institute of this city, the parent school of the whole fraternity. Its Professor of Materia Medica gives it as his opinion that calomel is our best solvent, and is the agent to be relied upon "where the solvent property is demanded, as in inflammatory adhesions of the tissues of the eye, or in pleural or other adhesions of the serous surfaces." The editors of its organ quote recommendations in favor

of leeches, blisters and scarification. Its Professor of Obstetrics advises the use of ergot, stramonium, "sedatives to the heart," cupping and blisters. Its Professor of theory and Practice uses sulphate of zinc, opium, night-shade, croton oil, strychnine, kreosote, oxalic acid, cantharides and other equally venomous poisons. *Second* in point of age and respectability is the Institution at Worcester, Mass., whose Professors use the same narcotic poisons advised by the Institute here. The editor of its organ is opposed to all "platforms of principles," and thinks that no "honest reformer" should "refrain from the use of mercury, if mercurials were the only remedy for the cure of any particular disease." He also says, "it is of little consequence whether the platform [upon which medical men stand] be true or false, fact or fiction." Then there is the Syracuse Medical College, whose founder has, more than once, and in our presence, drawn blood from the arms of his patients, spread fly-blister literally by the half pound, and given opium to narcotization. Here is the American Medical College (an off-shoot of the Eclectic Institute,) one of whose Professors, we are told, said they "could not reject any class of medicines, *not even mercurials*;" and another declared that "he knew mercury would cure a case of syphilis, if our own remedies failed." Lastly, there is the Eclectic College of Philadelphia, *some* of whose teachers use opium, conium, digitalis, hen-bane, aconite, &c.

As we can not possibly think that any man will practice one thing while believing another, we must conclude, from this survey of the Eclectic schools, that they, one and all, hold to the doctrines, even as they hold to many of the destructive practices, of Allopathy. It is evident that they believe disease to be legion; that fever, inflammation and irritation are diseases; that poisons are medicines; that disease can be well treated by the use of poisons. We say their practice leads us to conclude that these are their tenets, tenets which are the very opposite of those set forth in the Baltimore Platform. Is there any man living who can so far forget what belongs to common honesty as to ask us to cease our adherence to truth and join our name and our labors on the side of error? Is there a reformer who can ask us to lend our aid against calomel and the lancet by taking up opium, stramonium, blisters, conium, croton oil and dog-button? Is there any well read man so blind to the laws of science as to suppose we can raise an opposition to certain practices and struggle for their overthrow, and at the same time affiliate with those who base themselves upon the very tenets from whence those practices sprung? To "unite" with Eclecticism would be to do all this, and we will assure our readers, most emphatically, that this we *can not* do. Not that we have the least personal animosity toward any man who bears the name Eclectic, for many of them are our warm friends, but such a course is too directly at variance with all medical and moral principle to ever meet our approbation.

W. H. C.

Physio Medical Recorder.

Editorial.

PROF. BUCHANAN'S REPLY—ECLECTIC VIEWS OF CALOMEL
Cincinnati, Sept. 25, 1855.

PROF. COMINGS : Sir,—In your October number, just received, I perceive that you have reiterated, and attempt to maintain your accusation against the faculty of the Eclectic Medical Institute, using the expression that the “Professors in the Eclectic Medical College recommend and practice bleeding and the use of Calomel ;” an assertion so grossly false as to be entirely inexcusable, unless you are yourself imposed upon by falsehoods from others. It is well known to every student of the Eclectic Medical Institute, that the faculty do not, in any manner whatever, recommend the use of Calomel or other mercurials, and that, on the contrary, they take great pains to show that there is absolutely no necessity for their use. As the doctrines of the Institute upon this subject have been so often published and are well known to every student who has attended its lectures, assertions to the contrary must have their origin in *malicious falsehood*.

The repudiation of mercurials and of bleeding from the therapeutic measures of our practice, has, from the very foundation of the Institute, been the most conspicuous and well known feature of its character—a fact which has become as well known as the existence of the Institute itself; the denial of which, by any individual upon his own authority, would be sufficient to destroy his character for veracity. It is very true that the Institute does not adopt the Botanico-medical notions, or reject all the medicines which are proscribed by physopaths ; but this is totally irrelevant to the question at issue. The fact that cupping and scarifying are occasionally resorted to, has no bearing upon the subject of general depletion, or any course by which any material quantity of blood should be lost, which has always been condemned by the faculty of the Institute in their lectures, practice, and publications, as destructive, unscientific treatment.

As you have refused to make the “amende honorable,” in reference to a slander which you have repeated, though you may not have originated it, you will please assist your readers to a knowledge of the truth, by publishing this brief communication ; and, I would add, that if any of your readers are in want of a supply of medical tracts, to demonstrate clearly the absurdity of bleeding, they can obtain copies by addressing the Dean of the Eclectic Medical Institute, in which they will find the arguments upon that subject, as they are presented in every course of the lectures of the Institute.

J. R. BUCHANAN.

REMARKS.—We give Prof. Buchanan the whole benefit of the above letter to our readers, and hope he will so far reciprocate, as to publish in his own Journal our reply. Some few months ago it seems that Prof. Buchanan took upon himself to speak for the whole Eclectic Institute and the Eclectic profession in the United States, in repudiating a convention held in this city. We never found fault with this assumption on his part, although we thought him rather assuming. But how is the case now? We quoted the words of *one of the Professors of the Eclectic Institute*—the Professor of Materia Medica and Pharmacy—to prove that the Eclectic Profession recommended and used Calomel. Does not Prof. Buchanan's colleague speak for the College and the Profession? Why not "repudiate" your own colleague's views and recommendation of Calomel, before you accuse us of "falsehood," and require us to make the *amende honorable*? Did we not *prove* what we said, by quoting the very words of your own Professor of Materia Medica? Was Prof. Cleaveland not justified in speaking for the Faculty and Profession as much as yourself in relation to the New York Convention?

You say that "it is well known to every student of the Eclectic Medical Institute, that the faculty do not in any manner whatever recommend the use of Calomel or other mercurials," &c., and you make this barefaced assertion with these words of your Prof. Cleveland before your eyes: "Podophylline cannot be relied on to supply the place of the mercurials in those cases where the solvent property is demanded, and in inflammatory adhesions of the tissues of the eyes, or in pleural, or in other adhesions of serous surfaces. Neither do I think that it will remove deposits of inflammatory exudations following syphilitic infections, as Calomel will." There, now, let me ask if Calomel and the mercurials are not recommended here, and how can Prof. Buchanan accuse us of "malicious falsehood" when he knows well that the above quotation substantiates our assertion, and *proves* that we uttered the truth?

Let us ask again in sober reason, if we "destroy our character for veracity," by saying that the Eclectics use and recommend poisons and bleeding? when the September number, and all the numbers of the Eclectic Medical Journal, the organ of the College and edited by Profs. Buchanan and Newton, recommends in its Clinical reports scarifying, leeching, cupping, the use of Zink, Cantharides, Oxalic acid, Opium, Beladonna, Stramonium, Aconite, &c.? It is folly and the most arrant assumption to contend that these practices and such remedies can be used without producing depletion! It is a begging of the question; and your assertion that "cupping and scarifying are occasionally resorted to," is a complete acknowledgement of our truthful remark. We therefore make the *amende honorable* by proving

clearly that the Eclectic Institute of Cincinnati recommend Calomel and various other poisons, and that the Professors practice bleeding ; for it matters not whether the blood is drawn by the poisonous leech, the cup, the scarifier, or the lancet.

We have thus " assisted our readers to a knowledge of the *truth*," by quoting from the authorized publications of the Eclectic profession. We might quote from their books and other sources, but the above are sufficient for our present use. In future, if Prof. B. still accuses us of falsehood, we shall take some trouble to look over the Journal, and the various reports of cases treated by Eclectics, and thus give the most abundant proof that while the Eclectics pretend to advocate innocuous medication, yet they *practice* different from what they *teach*.

We have no doubt but the " medical tracts " demonstrate clearly the absurdity of bleeding ; but what avails such teaching when every day practice gives the lie to your " demonstrations ?"

Now, doctor, let us give you a little good advice : throw away your system of odds and ends—your mixed theories of Allopathy and Eclecticism—and place yourself upon the *consistent* platform that rejects *in toto* every means and process which in its nature and tendency, in authorized medicinal quantities, degrees or modes of application, has been known to have destroyed human life or permanently injured the tissues, or deranged the physiological action, and use those and *those only* which have a direct tendency to aid the vital organs in the removal of the causes of disease and restoration of health and vigor. Plant yourself here, and then let your practice correspond to the above principles, and you will succeed, and your *inconsistency* will not be so palpable.

BLEEDING IN YELLOW FEVER AND CHOLERA.

An old fogey over the signature of *Medicus*, in the Sunday Dispatch of September 30th, in an article on the Yellow Fever and Cholera says, :—" The proper and what has proven the most efficient means to arrest such diseases (yellow fever and cholera) and to ward off death, is blood-letting at first ; at the same time to avoid the use of irritating, sedative and stimulating articles, &c., " and then to prove his views correct, he says, Dr. Rush saved 49 in 50 of his patients in Philadelphia in 1796, and that Dr. Donalson in this city in 1822 never had a fatal case, and so on of others who saved all their patients by copious bleeding, and the same success followed this treatment in Cholera. This Sangrado further adds : " One of the army surgeons, in England, transferred his patients into the open air and bled

them standing till they were faint, and of those treated in this manner not one died."

Now, in the name of humanity, why do our Allopathic physicians die themselves or let their patients die, when bleeding will save them? Is it possible that the mortality in Norfolk could have been staid by bleeding, and our physicians have been so thoughtless or ignorant as to have neglected this *safe* and efficient remedy? Speak out ye Allopaths, and let us know your reasons for not drawing the blood "ad deliquium animi," in this highly *inflammatory* disease.

MORPHIA AND LOBELIA.

In reply to our remarks on this subject in our September number, Prof. Kent enquires, "is Lobelia harmless? has it not become a matter of judicial history, that Lobelia has, in the hands of so called Botanic practitioners, time and again destroyed life?" We reply, No,—emphatically, No! and if Prof. K. will take the time to trace all the legal and book authority for the poisonous effects of Lobelia, he will be surprised to find it all traceable to the "sixth volume of Massachusetts Legal Reports," which contains the account of the trial of Samuel Thomson for the murder of Lovett. In this trial, only the witnesses against the prisoner were examined, and in all this testimony, only that of Dr. French was against Lobelia, and his only an *opinion* without experience. Thomson was acquitted.

Now, friend Kent, what is the opinion of one man, and that man without experience in the use of Lobelia, worth, compared with the thousands of Reformed Physicians who are in the daily use of this article? It will enlighten your mind a little, Prof. K., to look over the testimony against the harmlessness of our emetic. It may give you a good idea of what Allopathic authority is worth, when prejudice stands in the way.

We reply with the same emphatic No, respecting the Podophyllum, Lep-tandria, Sanguinaria, Prunus, &c. They are not poisons, and cannot be proved to be so, no more than catnip or sage. But this point has been so often answered that it is in vain to reiterate the position of Botanic physicians on this subject.

We did not intend to class quinine with morphia as poisonous, and our language cannot be so construed, for we expressly stated that the quinine was used to substantiate the Chrono-Thermal notion. But how strange it is, that our Professor should claim entire harmlessness for the quinine, and yet contend that "Lobelia has killed its victims," when thousands are yearly made deaf by quinine, and not one killed by Lobelia, even by the "ignorant Thomsonians."

The doctor has "not time nor the inclination to enter into a long and profitless discussion of the 'dogma' of innocuous medication." Why, my dear sir, if you will take the trouble to examine this subject, you will find it a "dogma" worthy of the name of axiom, and you will not find it "absurd or untrue;" but it will richly repay you for all your time, and you will find that there is so great an inconsistency in giving to a sick man to cure him, what would injure a well one, that you would hereafter confine your prescriptions to the *harmless agents* which characterize the Reform practice of medicine.

All we can ask of Prof. K. is to use the Lobelia more, and the Opium less; and never let the "dogma" of Chrono-Thermalism lead him to use even the harmless quinine, when lobelia, scullcup, and pepper will be far more efficacious.

CONGENITAL MALFORMATION.

DR. J. H. JOHNSON, of No. 3 Dover Street, called us in a few weeks since to see a singular case of malformation. The mother, after a natural labor, gave birth to a male child of small size, with the greater portion of the intestines protruded from the abdomen, through a small orifice about one half inch from the umbilical and on the right side. We could distinctly recognize the greater part of the duodenum, all the jejunum and illium, with the greater portion of the colon. The coats of these intestines were thickened, congested, and firmly adhered together. There was also a strong adhesion to the orifice through which they seemed to protrude. The child cried lustily and manifested pain when these intestines were handled. We considered death inevitable, and ordered non-interference. After a few hours we visited this case again, and finding the child alive, we thought there might be a second intestinal tube within the parietes of the abdomen, as it seemed to have the usual fulness. We concluded therefore to ligature this tube, and then ordered the child dressed and put to the breast. On visiting the patient the next morning it was dead, having lived some fifteen hours.

Autopsy.—Opening the abdomen we found that this extra visera was wanting within; the stomach distended and containing air, some liquid, and a little curdled milk. A small portion of the colon and the rectum was all there was of the canal. The liver was healthy; so also was the heart and the lungs, &c.

In seeking the cause of this deformity, the mother stated that her husband was killed by a fall from a height seven months before this, and that

his bowels were injured by this fall and the cause of death. The wife swooned away, and had never fully recovered from the shock. At the time of the father's death, the wife had no ideas of pregnancy.

How will those who disbelieve in "mother marks" account for this singular deformity?

SOMETHING FOR EVERY FAMILY AND EVERY PHYSICIAN.

THERE is nothing more invaluable to a family or physician than a good syringe, and hence we take great pleasure in calling the attention of our readers to one of the most perfect articles of the kind we have ever seen. It is the invention of Dr. Mattson, of Boston, who has already introduced two very excellent syringes to the public; but this is his latest improvement, and we think cannot be rivalled in excellence. We have used it for nearly two months, and are therefore practically acquainted with its merits. We have been at some pains to procure a cut of it, which we give below:



The prominent character of this ingenious instrument is the absence of a piston, and therefore there is nothing to get out of order. The right hand is represented as grasping an "elastic receiver," which expands quickly after being compressed, and a vacuum being thus formed, it fills immediately with fluid, and in this way, by means of valves, you can pump any quantity of fluid you may desire.

The syringe is very light and portable, and may be carried conveniently in the pocket of a lady or gentlemen. It answers to all the purposes of a female syringe, and its value is enhanced by an illustrated *Manual of Directions* from the pen of Dr. Mattson, which contains a great deal of important information on the subject of injections. Dr. J. V. C. Smith, Mayor of Boston, and editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, says: "A more useful little volume could hardly have been written; it supplies a deficiency of long standing."

We hope every family in the United States, for its own sake, will purchase this capital instrument and book. The price is only \$3.00. Persons out of the way of the express can have them sent through the mail, with the postage paid to any distance within three thousand miles, by remitting \$3.50 to Mattson & Co., 39 Tremont Street, Boston, Mass.

MEDICAL SECTARIANISM.

Prof. Buchanan has sent us his Address on Medical Sectarianism, with the following passages marked, "Let all who will, circumscribe themselves by exact boundaries ; we claim free access to all that experience and science have ever taught or are now teaching." Now let us ask the kind doctor if the "experience and the science" of Allopathy does not teach the use of poisons and depletion, &c., and unless he "circumscribes" himself and his followers by some "exact boundaries," we fear that Medical Reform will suffer, and the errors of Allopathy will extend farther and wider.

Again he says, "It is to be hoped that a broad American Eclecticism, candidly recognizing all that is contributed to the healing art—neither despising nor rejecting any thing which is the product of honest investigation—will ultimately harmonize medical sects and extinguish medical sectarianism." Let us again enquire, if the use of Calomel and the whole range of Allopathic treatment is not the "product of honest investigation ?" Does not our good friend see the necessity of "circumscribing ourselves by some exact boundaries" in our teachings and practice, or we are at once swallowed up by Allopathy ? We have always been the strong advocate of a high standard of medical education, and of the largest liberty in appropriating all that *is good* in the practice of medicine ; but we must reject all poisons from the *materia medica* of our choice.

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE OF THE METROPOLITAN
MEDICAL COLLEGE.

THE fourth Session of the Lectures in the Metropolitan Medical College opened on the 16th October, by a Lecture from the editor of this Journal. The audience seemed much interested, and at the close a vote was passed soliciting a copy of the opening Address for publication in the Journal. We shall publish it in the December Number.

The attendance is now as numerous as we anticipated, and if we could keep our columns open a few days, we would announce the number in attendance, but the Class is not yet full. The first few days of the Session however has encouraged us to believe that our College is bound to succeed.

The easy terms on which our Lecture Rooms are obtained, and the light expences to which the Faculty are liable, through the liberality of Messrs. Law & Boyd, almost make our College a self sustaining Institution, for the Professors so far, have received all the fees of the students, and the Matriculation money, &c., have paid all the contingencies. As our classes increase

in number, this College will probably pay better than any other Reformed Medical Institution in the country.

Our College has silently and almost imperceptibly worked its way up, from a small beginning, till it now occupies a really enviable position among the Institutions devoted to the advancement of Medical Reform. Although our numbers have been small, yet the Lectures have been well sustained, and our students have left us highly pleased with the advantages enjoyed. The Spring Session commences on the 2nd Tuesday of March 1856, when we shall have a Class still larger than the present, which is encouraging to the friends of the College and enlarges our hopes for the future.

EXCERPTA.

A Dr. Arnott's death is announced in the English journals. He was physician to Napoleon at St. Helena. The Emperor, on his death-bed, desired that a valuable gold snuff-box might be brought to him, and having, with his dying hand and last effort of departing strength, engraved upon its lid with a penknife the letter "N," he presented it to Dr. Arnott, as a parting memorial of his esteem and heartfelt gratitude. Dr. A. published, in 1822, a clear and detailed "Account of the Last Illness, Decease and Post mortem Appearance of Napoleon Bonaparte."

A The Westminster Review says that epidemics rage at night because it is then that the stream of air nearest the ground must always be the most charged with the particles of animated matter given out from the skin, and deleterious gases, such as carbonic acid gas, the product of respiration, and sulphureted hydrogen, the product of the sewers. It is known that carbonic acid gas, at a low temperature, partakes so nearly of the nature of a fluid, that it may be poured out of one vessel into another. It rises at the temperature at which it is exhaled from the lungs; but its tendency is toward the floor, or the bed of the sleeper, in cold or unventilated rooms.

A What is called apoplexy of the lungs consists in the rupture of a blood-vessel, and the extravasation of blood into the air passages, and is by no means necessarily fatal. Disease of the heart is most always its cause, and the most common symptom is raising blood. Apoplexy proper is the rupture of a blood-vessel within the cavity of the skull, or in the brain, and its consequent pressure upon the centre of the nervous system or brain produces paralysis.

A To keep the teeth clean, when once made so, a full and soft brush

should be applied in a rotary manner, at least once a day, with not very cold water. As often as once a week, prepared chalk may be used as a dentifrice. Charcoal, pumice stone, &c., wear away the teeth too severely, and, indestructible as the first named is, it insinuates itself between the gum and the neck of the tooth, which latter, not being covered by enamel, soon decays when thus exposed.

AT the post-mortem examination of the late Hon. Mr. Lawrence, of Boston, revealed the fact that the liver and gall-bladder adhered to the large intestine and to the wall of the abdomen. In the midst of this adhesion was an ulcerated cavity, which had found an opening at one extremity into the base of the gall bladder, and at the other into the ascending colon. There were ulcers in the stomach and at the upper part of the small intestine, the former of which had so nearly perforated the coats of the organ that a probe was passed through without sensible resistance.

AT Goblets made of quassia wood are now sold in considerable quantities in the principal druggists' shops in this city. Water is poured into them, which, after being left some minutes, is drank as a cure for dyspepsia. The quassia is a valuable corrective, and the mode of taking it now adopted is simple, easy, and agreeable.

BOOK NOTICES AND EXCHANGES.

HALL'S JOURNAL OF HEALTH.—The October number of this Journal has some excellent articles, with which we shall take pleasure in enriching our pages. This is the most liberal of all the Allopathic publications, and is worthy the patronage of an enlightened community. Perhaps if the editor had been sneered and derided by the Allopathic profession as much as the "Reformers" have been, that he would not possess so much of the "*suaviter in re*," and might manifest a *little passion* occasionally, from the very consciousness of feeling on the right side.

PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN.—This excellent hebdominal is published every Saturday, by the Hopedale community. We have always esteemed this paper as almost the only truly *religious* paper in the United States.

Sectarianism is not an element of religion; hence these papers called religious are not so, in our estimation.

The Christianity which is advocated by this paper is what we believe in. We cheerfully place it on our exchange list, and will recommend our read-

ers to subscribe for the Practical Christian, for its precepts are pure, liberal and Christianlike. Price \$1.00. Address, Hopedale, Mass.

POTTER'S COMPEND OF PRACTICE.—We have carefully looked over this work of more than 300 pages, and in the main have been well pleased with it. It is just such a "Compend" as the medical student needs, and it must be valuable to the author's students, for whom it was mainly prepared.—Prof. Potter has exhibited rare judgment in the arrangement and composition of this work. It is really *multum in parvo*, and we can find no fault except with the recommendation of a few poisons which might readily have been dispensed with, and the addition of a few *fundamental principles*, instead of leaving each individual to patch up a hotch-potch of theories for himself. We rather wonder that the author's views of fever do not lead him to deplete. Price \$2.00. Address Prof. H. S. Potter, Cincinnati, O.

A Manuel of Clinical Medicine,—By T. H. Janner M. D. This is emphatically a *Multum in parvo* work, and really the very book that every Medical student should carry in his pocket, as a sort of *Vade mecum*, when he travels the rounds of the hospitals, or commences the practice of medicine. It is the most complete little hand-book we have ever seen for the young physician. Blanchard & Lea, Publishers, Philadelphia, Pa.

GEORGIA PHYSICIANS IN THE PESTILENCE.

AMONG the physicians who so nobly and heroically exposed themselves to the pestilence in Virginia, we notice *thirteen* from the State of Georgia, and of this number only *one* died as represented in the *Southern Argus*. We think no other furnished so many and no other lost so few. The Argus says "about two thousand have died of the yellow fever and every man, woman and child (almost without exception) has been stricken with the fell fever, being not less than two out of three of the whites, and one out of three of the whole abiding community of Norfolk, white and black." This is almost unheard of in the annals of mortality.

AS In a paper read by Mr. Brooks, at a meeting of the Scientific Association, in Providence, on the hereditary transmission of disease, the following conclusions were laid down as the result of investigations of the subject:—That the laws—used and misused—which improve or deteriorate the breed in lower animals, are the same laws of nature which improve or deteriorate the human race; that an unusual number of imbecile children, born from parents who are first cousins, are often found in the same family; that few if any children born of parents who are first cousins, exceed their parents in bodily strength or mental power, while children born of parents not related are frequently found to do so.

THE
Journal of Medical Reform.

DECEMBER, 1855.

Original Communications.

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE.

To the Fourth Session of the Metropolitan Medical College.

BY PROF. I. M. COMINGS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

It is gratifying to us on this occasion to meet so many young men, who are just commencing the study of a most noble profession, as well as a goodly number of those who have been, for a longer or shorter period, engaged in the healing art. But, while we express gratitude for this attendance, we must also declare that we feel a heavy responsibility resting on us in discharging the duties of this evening. Here are before me listening ears and retentive memories, ready to receive instruction into good and honest minds, which will be ever anxious to impart to others, whatever may here be learned.

First and early impressions are the most lasting, hence those who are listeners and eager attendants on this Introductory Lecture, and who are for the first time attendants on our instructions, may be most favorably and deeply impressed with the remarks we may now make, we have thought therefore that we could not choose a more appropriate theme than

THE PHYSICIAN, HIS QUALIFICATIONS AND HIS DUTIES.

There are those in the community who regard the Physician merely, as the practical curer of the sick, a sort of mechanical routinist; but really his office is a sacred one, and in the estimation of all enlightened nations is so considered, notwithstanding the low estimation of a few degraded minds. Hippocrates tells us that there are six things necessary to constitute the good physician, they are as follows, *morals, talents, early study, education, the love of work* and finally *time*. To perfect the physician all these are requisite

and then he can stand up among his fellow men respected, honored and influential. *Natural* and *acquired* abilities combine to make the good physician, and there is no profession which requires greater scope of knowledge, no science that is not tributary, no department of nature not subsidiary to it, so that the physician must have a most extended course of studies, through the whole of the sciences; no superficial course will prepare him for his responsibilities; and it is not enough that his scientific, literary and professional education, should be extended and thorough, but his *moral* education and training must be attended to. It has well been remarked that the mind and heart of the practitioner of medicine should be the shrine of truth and probity. His mind should not deceive itself, and his heart should not suffer itself to be deceived and mislead by any earthly temptation from the narrow and rugged way of duty and conscientiousness.

The duties of the medical profession are not merely restricted to the cure of disease, but we have a wider range, embracing within our scope whatever tends to the improvement of our moral, as well as our mental condition; everything in fact that will confer the greatest good on the greatest number. The highest ambition of the true Physician is to *save* rather than to *destroy*, and this is most emphatically true of the Reformed Physician who uses only innocuous agents, such as act in harmony with the vital principle.

While the warrior wins glory at the expense of human life and happiness, the physician exhibits a *nobler* heroism. Whether it be on the battle field after the mortal assault, or in the hospital among the wounded and dying, it is the same—a manifestation of the courage of science and humanity, and it is always sublime. We have lately read of it in the voluntary exiles to the Crimean swamps, as well as in the self sacrificing devotion at Norfolk and Portsmouth. All such Physicians are an honor to our profession, and are clearly entitled to the “*clarum et venerabile, nomen.*”

The courage of the warrior under the high stimulus of passion, or the low love of applause, cannot be compared to the noble intrepidity of the surgeon, who gleans in the ruthless warrior's path, the leavings of the battle field and the ghastly scenes of the military hospital; much less heroism can the chieftian claim in battle than he who encounters the grim antagonist, in the horrid silence and gloom of the pestilence. We can hardly call to mind an instance of human courage and virtue more sublime and unearthly, than that of the physician, who in the midnight of a plague stricken city, threads the foetid solitudes of its alleys and streets, entering the devoted hovel of the sick and dying, ministering to their necessities, while only Pestilence and Misery, Death and God, are looking on. Such was the constancy and heroism of Nash and Cannon and Hunter and scores of others who have lately died martyrs to their professional duties during the epidemic in Norfolk; such young gentlemen, are some of the

responsibilities that may rest on you who are about to enter our profession. It becomes you to count the cost, closely to examine the motives which influence you to commence the study of our art; scrutinize fairly the incentives by which you are moved to enter upon the high responsibilities of the medical profession.

Some may consider the life of the physician as easy. It may appear gilded and shining on the surface, but, alas! beneath the spangles, who can see the pain and hardship, but the practicing physician himself, he drinks the cup of bitterness even to the dregs, and often is subject to the basest ingratitude and injustice. His troubles begin at the very gates of his career. He spends months and years of his youth in the loathsome and exhausting study of Anatomy, he breathes the air of putrefaction and is daily exposed to all the dangers of contagion. Then after the ordeal of the Green Room, and he has graduated and entered upon the practice of his difficult art, behold what hindrances beset his path? he often sees unblushing ignorance win the success denied to his learning and talents; the pretender and the charlatan, the quack and the mountebank, reap the rich rewards of which he was deserving. Again, we often find that when the skilful doctor has cured his patient, and even when others have given him up to die, then the carping enemy cries, it is the results of chance, and no credit is bestowed upon his skill and efficient remedies. Behold the shameless speculators in quack nostrums and specific pills, how they arrest the public attention by their flaming handbills and costly advertisements, securing princely fortunes, erecting splendid palaces on Broadway, and reckoned millionaires on the tax rolls, while neglect, obscurity and poverty perhaps, are the portion of the modest practitioner, who has embraced the profession of medicine with conscientiousness and cultivates it with dignity and honor.

Such are some of the troubles which will be sure to beset your path, when you enter upon the stern realities of medical life, and yet amid all these trials, your daily bread will be sweetened, not alone by toil, but by a happy consciousness of having mitigated human sorrow, and sometimes by the sweet incense of grateful hearts.

PHYSICIAN NOT MERCENARY.

1st. *The Physician must not be mercenary.* It is most probable for many years that you may bestow the fruits of your knowledge, and the resources of your skill, upon those who have little to pay; and it may be during a life long practice that you will have to reckon far more labor performed gratuitously, than that which is fully compensated. If this dark side of the picture frightens you, or if you now approach the threshold of the medical profession with mercenary views alone, we must freely declare to you that the right spirit does not animate your hearts, and you had better turn back at once while you can do so without disgrace. If, however, you yearn for the time to come when you shall have the power to avert disease, to call bac-

the departing spirit, restore the babe to its mother, the parent to children over whom the dread doom of orphanage was hanging, the gifted and virtuous citizen to the State, then may we greet you with a hearty welcome, and predict for you an honorable name and station. Medicine is not generally, indeed very seldom a road to wealth. Physicians often spend years, or their lives in exhausting labors, and their children are left to fight the battle for themselves.

PHYSICIAN EDUCATED.

2nd. *The Physician must be Educated.* When we contend for a high standard of medical education, we mean not simply that the physician should be well versed in the literature *strictly professional*, but we have said that medicine has to do with all the sciences, and that to be well educated in medicine, is to be *learned*, for the word *Doctor* implied this originally. It is nothing against our assumption, that there have been many distinguished physicians who were not liberally educated in the scholastic learning of the day; we admit this, but would not these very men have been better doctors if they had been educated men? There are now, and there have been many men in all ages, who have never set foot in College, who may be comparative strangers to the literature of Medicine, and even its science, yet they have minds well stored with *useful* and *practical* knowledge, which renders them far superior to many who can show with pompous pride their College Diplomas, with the signatures of the learned of the land, testifying to their numerous attainments and qualifications. Every profession is adorned by the education of those within its pale, and none more so, than that of medicine.

PHYSICIAN—SOUND JUDGEMENT.

3d. *The Physician should be a man of sound judgement and firmness.* Again the Physician should be possessed of a sound, discriminating judgement, a firm and unswerving determination to perform what his best judgement dictates. Energy is necessary to success in every enterprise, but it is particularly the attribute of the *good physician*. What boots it, if he has heaped up lore and well disciplined his mind, if he has not proper judgement to direct, or sufficient energy to perform? His learning will all be in vain, "like the sounding brass and the tinkling cymbal."

The able physician should never fail to obey his better judgement, nor falter from want of confidence in his own ability, or through the apprehensions and dissuasions of friends, where he alone should decide; he should ever act as duty, judgement and conscience direct, though fortune frown, patronage forsake, or friends grow cold, or even if the finger of scorn be pointed at him, and the tongue of slander is heard on every hand. He should feel the firmness which spoke—

"I'd rather stand with conscious pride assured,
Alone, than e'er with millions on my side."

And this firmness is particularly necessary to you, young Gentlemen, who have determined to enter the ranks of Medical Reform. Proud, monopolizing Allopathy, disposed to see nothing good out of her own sphere, overbearing and presumptive, she looks down with infinite contempt upon any innovation or inroads upon her long enjoyed prerogatives. You will therefore meet with opposition, ridicule, contempt and persecution from a large and influential class of Society. You will even not be regarded as belonging to the Profession of Medicine, although you may be *legally* enrolled as such, and though you possess the qualifications that we here recommend and that we esteem so highly, yet because you discard the poisoning, depleting, destructive practice of old Allopathy, you will be disfranchised and regarded as quacks and ignoramuses. Hence more than ordinary firmness and decision are necessary for those who are engaged in the practice of the Reformed System of Medicine.

PHYSICIAN PHILANTHROPIC.

4th, *The Physician must be philanthropic.* The next qualification we mention as characteristic of the good physician, is *philanthropy*, or an enlarged humanity. He must have a heart that beats in sympathy with the wants and sufferings of his fellow men, a benevolence that will lead him willingly and cheerfully to extend a helping and charitable hand to the poor and needy. The inspired volume has declared, that though we may be gifted with all the other graces, yet if charity be wanting they will avail us nothing. Without this heaven-born grace, society could not exist.

“ Non nobis solum nati sumus.”

“ We are born not for ourselves alone,” is an aphorism as old and as true as the great philosopher ever uttered, and it has not lost its vigor or its authority by the long lapse of time since it was penned. Our Divine Master intended that we should be happy, and as one prerequisite to this happiness, He enjoined that we should serve our fellow men.

What physician of any considerable practice, cannot count among the happiest moments of his life, the visit to some poor and neglected outcast, or to some distressed and feeble patient, who with his last breath thanks you for your attention, or *looks* the grateful emotion, when the tongue is unable to speak the fullness of the heart. Such Charity is “ twice blessed,” it gives but to receive. In truth, the physician is but the instrument which God uses, to administer to and relieve suffering humanity. We have said that you are not to toil for filthy lucre alone, not to live solely for *self*, but a world wide sympathy, a universal love, should pervade every sentiment and direct every action. Let us hope, then, as you enter the threshold of medicine ere you matriculate, that you decide the question, whether you possess the philanthropy and charity necessary for the high calling you are about to assume. If you possess and put in practice such principles as we have described, you will command the confidence

and receive the gratitude, respect and patronage of a virtuous community ; you will honor your profession, yourselves and the world.

PHYSICIAN'S OBLIGATIONS.

5th. *The Physician should feel his obligations.* The next qualification we mention as characteristic of the true physician is, that he should be sensibly alive to the various obligations resting upon him. There is no avocation and perhaps no profession to which greater responsibility attaches itself, than that on which you are now entering. You should therefore proceed with fear and trembling. The physician should have an eye single to the salvation of his patient. Nothing should be neglected, no pains spared, no efforts however arduous or repugnant should be untried. He should seize information from every passing event ; the closest scrutiny and the most careful discrimination in diagnosis is often of the most vital importance to his patient, and unless the physician feels this, and has a correct view of the obligations resting upon him, he may prove unworthy the high trust committed to his charge. No matters of even minor importance should be neglected, and the trusting sick should never suffer from his neglect. The relation that subsists between the doctor and his patient ; is of a most tender and confiding character; the law even throws a sanctity around it. The obligations of the physician are akin and nearly allied to that of the parent, and his sympathies should always be exhibited in acts of kindness.

As the doctor is entitled to certain privileges by his profession, he incurs thereby strong obligations to exert his best abilities to maintain its dignity and its honor, to exalt its standing, and to extend the bounds of its usefulness. The Profession of Medicine has a *character* to maintain, and this character is not the property of a single member, neither does it belong to any particular class, order, or clique of Medicine. It has no locality, but it belongs to the whole body of practicing physicians of the country, and of the world, and this character, is the result of the labors of the best men of all ages who have been self sacrificing and benevolent, and whose noble achievements have gained for them this character which is so desirable, and for which we should contend so strongly.

The introduction of an individual into the medical profession consists in nothing more nor less, than in clothing him with the character of the profession, and in imparting to him the right to exercise everything pertaining to it for the good of Society and himself. The possession of such a treasure, with its rights, must necessarily imply on the part of the individual thus invested, certain obligations, and it is these that we wish you to feel on this occasion, for without you have fully weighed these, and have been sensibly impressed with them, we fear you will not appreciate the honorable station which you will soon occupy.

PHYSICIAN A STUDENT.

6th. *The Physician should be a Student.* Another important duty to which we feel it proper to direct your attention is that of *Study*—hard, unremitting, close application to your books. Do not think that the road to professional distinction is to be travelled without severe mental and physical toil. It is not enough for you to sit here four or five hours each day, and listen to the teachings of your Professors, even if you give your full attention to their instructions, but your text books are to be thoroughly conned and mastered—you are to search and see if these things are so. Satisfy your own minds, by your own investigations into the truth and philosophy of the doctrines and precepts inculcated by your professors. Remember that the system of Medical practice which we teach, has been, and is yet, opposed by the large body of the Allopathic profession. It is even ridiculed and considered unworthy the support of an enlightened community. You will perceive therefore, that it is of the utmost importance, that you prepare yourselves by thorough study, that you may meet the Old School opponent on his own ground. You will thus be able to turn the guns of the enemy on themselves, to deal out their own thunder to them in such measure and quantity that they will be entirely silenced and overcome.

Our course of studies in this Institution is just as extensive and as ample in all respects, as in any Medical College in the land, and we think in some respects superior, from the fact that we pay more attention to the indiginous medical agents of America, and describe more particularly their uses and virtues. There is, then, open before you, the whole range of medical studies, and without months and years of hard and close application you will not be prepared to have committed to you the responsibilities of the Physician, neither will you feel competent to defend the truth, or sustain the position you take in the medical world.

The past is the great teacher for the present. Hence we must consult the tomes of ancient lore, and dig out the precious gems which they contain, as well as extract from more modern writers the sweets and fragrance which we there find. It is a consoling thought that what man has done, man may do, that,

“Rank and station from no condition rise.”

In truth it has often happened that family distress, narrowed opportunities, and sometimes actual want and the lowest indigence have been the best heritage of many of our illustrious men. These circumstances have but called forth the greatest energies, and the most persevering efforts which has placed them in the niche of fame, among the greatest benefactors of the world. It is for us, then, with a laudable ambition to follow their example, and to act in our turn as they have done before us.

There are those before me, who for many long months, have been closely reading their text books, and thus become more or less familiar

with the various branches of medical science, such may think that now, as they come here to this great city, where they have free access to museums, libraries, hospitals, lectures, &c., and are surrounded with all the appliances of learning ; that there is but little need of study, that they have only to *listen, see and learn*. Be not deceived, Gentlemen. *Books, books* are still to be your companions, *study, STUDY*, is yet your duty, if you will be medical scholars, and fully competent to meet all the demands upon your intelligence at this enlightened day. What harder fate for the young physician than with an *empty* mind, to associate for years in his Office, with rows of monotonous bottles, jars and herbs. The jars and bottles may be full, but the head of the owner is empty ; the roots, herbs and barks may be for the healing of the nations, but the ignorant dispenser may be unable to distribute them so as to fulfil the intention of the beneficent Author of our being.

Think of the heaven you create within you by the practice of habitual study. It is knowledge that turns the lowest circumstances and trifles into scenes of the greatest enjoyment, and it is the possession of this, which fits us to become the greatest benefactors of our race.

Ignorance of the various branches of medical science has been the chief hindrance to the success of Medical Reformers. The efficacy of our remedial agents, even in the hands of the unlearned, and the great success attending the early Thomsonians in their practice, gave the impetus to Medical Reform : but the teachings of the founder for many years kept our profession in the back ground so far as scientific medicine was concerned, for he took every occasion to inculcate the duty of every man being his own physician ; but the present age finds us not only advocating but nobly sustaining various Colleges, where the standard of medical attainments is as high as in any medical Institution in the land, and the fact that we see you here this evening, is evidence that you feel the importance of a thorough medical training.

Never be content with just that amount of knowledge which will enable you to get through the ordinary duties of your profession. Dig deep into the science of Physiology and Pathology. Become perfectly familiar with all the technicalities of Anatomy and Surgery and Botany, so that you will pass for educated physicians. Be not superficial in your studies and attainments.

In fine, you must turn away from all that is likely to preoccupy your thoughts in this great emporium, for it will avail you very little to hear the precepts of your teachers, to see the practical illustrations of their teachings, or to have within your reach, all these means of knowledge, if you remain merely *passive* observers. You must feel, touch, handle, examine for yourselves, as well as think and draw those rational conclusions which are but the result of philosophic deductions from Nature's laws.

It is study that will make you every thing you wish to be in regard to intellectual pursuits. Let me again exhort you to apply yourselves to your books. Never be satisfied with any attainments you may have made, but consider what is yet to be learned. In this way, by close application to your books, by constant attention to the lectures and to the various facilities afforded in this City, by thorough study and persevering efforts you cannot fail to be prepared to fulfil the duties devolving upon you, throughout your professional career.

THE PHYSICIAN A REFORMER.

We should not feel that we had performed all our duty on this occasion if we did not say a few words in defence of the medical system which we advocate and teach.

It is probably known to every one present that the peculiar characteristics of the doctrines Medical Reformers teach, consist in "rejecting in toto every means and process, which in its nature and tendency, in authorized medicinal doses, degrees, or modes of application, has been known to have directly destroyed human life, or permanently injured the tissue, or deranged the physiological action; and use those, and those only which have a direct tendency to aid the vital organs in the removal of the causes of disease, and the restoration of health and vigor." It will be thus seen that the Medical Reformer advocates and practices innocuous medication, he believes that Medicine is a science that can be demonstrated, and that the treatment, from the most simple prescription to the most complicated, should proceed from established principles, and be based on sound reason and positive deductions. The Old School practice is not of this character, for theories are still based upon theories, and facts and practice are warped to substantiate them.

There is no necessity that there should be so much uncertainty and mortality attendant on the practice of physic. We do not see this in the other departments of science, and our science should be prosecuted in the spirit, and its investigations should be conducted under the precepts of a positive philosophy. It is true, that the human organism is not a mechanism of uniform structure and arrangement, and acting in one uniform mode in every individual. Nor can we expect the physician to act merely as the engineer, passively superintending the movements of a *mechanical* machine; for we know the human machine is subject to an endless variety in the combination of its remote and its proximate organic elements, in the energy of its forces, the manifestations of its phenomena and its means of existence, yet if we will only permit ourselves to be governed by established principles, there need not be so much *uncertainty* or mortality attendant on the practice of physic. We must not be swayed by false theories nor mystified by a close adherence to the customs and opinions of the ancients. We are now placed where Galileo, Harvey, Luther and others have been in relation to the reforms and discoveries which they advocated, and while all other branches of natural science have been

brought out of the jargon and blindness of the dark ages. Medicine has changed but little, and there is the same need of a Medical Reformation as there was that there should be one in Astronomy or Religion or Chemistry. The march of improvement is onward, for we find that truth in medicine is investigated in the same manner as in Chemistry and Physics—by experimental, analytical and inductive methods.

Springle has observed, that “the honest student of nature will lightly regard all modes of medical treatment unless they have the sanction of success, and even those recommended by the more respectable authority of usage and long experience will be tried by the same rule, and be willingly resigned whenever more successful, though newer and unauthorized methods are discovered.” But few Old School Physicians are ready to adopt this rule.

There is no standard of medical principles taught in our Allopathic Colleges: we seek in vain for any fundamental doctrines. Take the Schools of this City. Listen to their sage views of fever, inflammation, the cause of disease, and other important and fundamental doctrines, that ought to be fully established, and hear their contradictory notions, and then tell me if medicine is much removed from the theories of the dark ages.

We invite medical men of the Allopathic School to scrutinize our System rigidly, and put it fairly to the test. This is all we ask of our opponents. We contend that our system demands the strictest enquiry into its merits, as some compensation for the unsparing abuse, which has been so long and so illiberally heaped upon us.²⁰¹⁹

The sagacious and far sighted Bacon, whose reasoning powers are even at this period of the world regarded with veneration, could come to no other conclusion, than that the physician ought to be the helper of Nature in the curative process. We claim this principle as one of our fundamentals, that nothing should ever be done for the sick, which will debilitate or weaken—nothing which will deplete or have a tendency to counteract—the living principle. Let me urge you then to adhere closely and constantly to this Baconian maxim, “never counteract the vital principle.” Do not regard the *plausible theories* that may be advanced in favor of depletion; but let facts, reason and common sense have the dominant sway over your minds, and you will never dabble in those dangerous and deceptive practices, which have been the cause of so much misery and death in the world.

While we thus, so strongly urge you to keep aloof from the poisoning and depleting practices of Allopathy, we must also warn you to beware of that temporising, half-way, non committal practice which is neither one thing or the other. We refer to that *practice*, for it is not a *system*, which inculcates the notion that the best practice of physic, is that which is without system, but made up of all systems and practices.

We have shown you that there are truths and axioms in medicine,

just as well as in mathematics and all we ask, is, that these truths and principles should be believed and followed, and this you may do without being "sectarians in medicine, or without circumscribing yourselves by such rules as will interfere with the most liberal and extended practice, sufficient for all the ills of human life ;" and "we claim free access to all that experience and science have ever taught, or are now teaching," if this experience and this science is found to be in accordance with those *fundamentals* which we know to be true, and which should govern us in all our practice. A liberality which would lead us to use poisons and practice the various methods of depletion, is a complete abandonment of all principles, and such a "broad American Eclecticism" as we hope never to advocate, or practice ; and it is of such license to poison that we hope you will ever be found the uncompromising opponents.

We do not claim for our practice that it will banish disease from the earth, but we do profess that we can effect a cure more speedily, and with greater safety to the patient than by any other system, and that our practice will relieve patients from a host of medicinal diseases, which at present add greatly to the miseries of the human race. If we do no good, we are sure to do no injury. Besides our opposition to poisons, vegetable, and animal as well as mineral, we discountenance the practice of blistering, bleeding, cupping, leeching, and every method of depletion that is not physiological.

We congratulate you on the choice you have made, and the opening prospects before you. Success will surely crown your efforts if you use the common diligence required in all professions, and adhere closely to those principles which will be inculcated in this Institution.

In conclusion, permit me to remark, that it is a close adherence to the principles we advocate, a strict adoption of the Reformed Practice, an uncompromising warfare against all poisons as medicines, and complete opposition to every depletive agent, that will ensure our success, and enable us to maintain our ground, and advance the cause of truth.

ALCOHOL AS A MEDICINE.

No. 4.

BY PROF. I. M. COMINGS.

Dr. Prouty a famous English physician and physiologist, by the closest experiments upon a great number of persons, proved conclusively, that alcohol in every state and any quantity, uniformly lessened, in a greater or less degree, the quantity of carbonic acid elicited, according to the quality and circumstances in which it is taken.

On an empty stomach its effects were most remarkable, the depression being almost instantaneous; after a short time the powers of the constitution appear to rally, and the quantity rapidly increases; then it sinks again, and afterwards rises slowly to the standard.

On a full stomach, as after dinner, the effect of vinous liquors are very slow, but no less sure and remarkable. As long as the effects of alcohol are perceptible, so long is the quantity of carbonic acid gas emitted, below the standard. Hence we see the blue veins, the bloated face, the venous congestion, which is so common in the inebriate. The sluggish state of the circulation which follows the use of liquor is caused by the blood's becoming overcharged with carbon, thus retained by the effects of this poison. So we see, when the effects of the alcohol is passing off, that the subject yawns frequently and manifests the appearance of just waking from sleep. The effect of strong tea is somewhat similar.

In these experiments of Dr. Prouty, he found that the pulse rose, after drinking at various hours during the day, from 70 to 80 beats in a minute. These facts, with the demonstrated truth that alcohol enormously depresses the combustion of the carbon of the system during its existence in the body, afford us one of the strongest arguments against the use of alcohol as a medicinal agent.

There are few, if any forms of disease, but what require medicines which will produce effects the opposite of those which alcohol is known to have on the organization. Whatever decarbonizes the blood, purifies and enlivens it; and in all febrile complaints it is always desirable to reduce the pulse, by a general equalization of the circulation, and by a promotion of the capillary secretions; but, as we have seen, the direct tendency of all alcoholic liquors is to produce the opposite effect, hence they must be injurious.

But, it is said, that we *must* use alcohol as a menstruum for certain valuable medicinal agents; that they cannot be administered without it, and again that the *medicine* neutralizes the narcotic property of the alcohol, and thus the system is preserved from its injurious effects. These objections are very plausible, but neither of them is correct except to a partial extent. We have proved in previous papers that alcohol cannot be disguised, that it will remain alcohol still, and while it is true to some extent that alcohol is very convenient as a menstruum for drugs, yet it is used a *hundred times*, where it ought to be *once*, and the very few drugs, in the preparation of which our present ignorance may require us to use alcohol, it can very well be dispensed with; and these drugs are so seldom used by our physicians that we should hardly feel their need.

All medicine requiring alcohol for a solvent, possess for it an affinity so weak that separation takes place the moment water is added. Take for example tincture of guaiacum, essence of peppermint, or spirits of camphor. On the addition of water, you procure in place of a clear, a milky fluid, caused by the separation of the medi-

cine from the alcohol. If it were taken undiluted into the stomach the same effect would be produced by the fluids there. I ask any physician to tell the advantages to be derived from the alcohol. I seriously question whether any of these tinctures or spirits ever saved a life or cured a disease. The supposed benefit is all a deception, arising from the stimulus of the alcohol. The event of recovery while using it does not prove that the medicine cured the patient, but merely that it did not kill him. But, there is reason for discarding these preparations based on a fact of more importance than a consideration of their worthlessness. It is this: *Medicines do not change the nature of alcohol so as to prevent the formation of a drunkard's appetite by their continued use, or its revival by an occasional dose.* If this is true, what security has the physician when prescribing alcoholic medicines that he will not make his patient a drunkard? Such results are not rare. They are not usually known, because we cannot often follow the inebriate back to the cause of his ruin. Some I have traced back without any difficulty, to the use of some of these indispensable tinctures, taken by the advice of physicians. Many reformed men within my knowledge have been lured back to their cups by their use. Now, admitting all the good they are supposed to do, will it compensate for the remotest risk of thus causing the patient's ruin? There is a fearful responsibility resting on the medical faculty in relation to the formation of vicious appetites. To be relieved from disease, or even saved from death at the expense of becoming a drunkard, is a fearful alternative. A correct public sentiment and just law would hold physicians responsible for such results. If a surgeon treat a dislocated or fractured limb unsuccessfully and the patient becomes a cripple, his reputation suffers and he is liable to pay heavy damages. Then why should not community frown upon him, and the terrors of the law take hold of him for inflicting an evil worse than death even? Which is the greater misfortune, to lose the use of a limb, or become an outcast from society? And which is the greater crime, to cripple a patient, or convert him into a brute—aye, a demon! If every drunkard had indelibly stamped upon his forehead, the name of the person who was the means of making him such, our physicians and surgeons might find that they had a larger investment in that kind of stock than they ever dreamed of, and the names of many would be handed down to posterity, that are now destined to oblivion.

But the evil does not end here. The quack nostrums, whose "name is legion," are all sustained by the plea that spirits are necessary to extract some property or preserve the compound; when in fact, they contain no other active ingredient. The patient very innocently mistakes the *fuddle of rum* for the mysterious workings of the medicine. He often remarks while under its influence,—"it has a very reaching effect,—I feel it to the very end of my fingers."

Druggists practice a great fraud with this class of Medicines;

getting money under false pretences, and promoting intemperance by cheating alcoholic poisons into persons who could not be ensnared in any other way. These essences, bitters, pain killers, cholera medicines, sarsaparillas, and wit' scarcely an exception, all the Patent Medicines in a liquid form to be found in the country, are disguised preparations of *Rum!*

We have not exhausted this subject, but shall not continue these articles in our next volume as we hope to make some arrangements to have valuable editorial aid, for the next year's Journal.

68 East Broadway, New York.

WHICH SHALL RULE?

BY J. B. SPIERS, M. D.

Man is a compound of two distinct natures; that is, an *animal* and a *spiritual* nature. The animal nature is common to man and to the beasts of the field, and the Spiritual nature belongs to the inhabitants of the eternal world. Thus man being a compound of both animal and spiritual, stands as a link between both. He partakes of animal enjoyments in common with the beasts, and is capable of the most rapturous enjoyments as a kind of foretaste of the holy service in which the inhabitants of the eternal world are engaged.

These two natures are in perpetual warfare; each, striving for the mastery, asserts his right to govern the whole man. And when the spiritual nature can gain the ascendancy and keep it, the result is, knowledge, power, wisdom, civilization, health and happiness in this world, and eternal happiness in the world to come. But when the animal governs, the tendency is, ignorance, discontent, pain and suffering in body and mind, loss of health and happiness in this life, and in the world to come.

If the spiritual nature is permitted to govern, it will assist our reason. But if the animal nature rules—if we are governed by evil inclinations and inordinate appetites,—then the good spirit will forsake and leave the individual in his folly, giving him over “to believe a lie,” and to suffer pain, affliction, misery, shame and disgrace in this world and in the world to come.

St. Paul says, “when I would good, evil is present.”—That is, when his spiritual nature said, “do good,” animal nature standing by said, “not so, I must govern.” The apostle also says, that he found it necessary “to keep his body, [his animal nature] under,” lest when he had preached to others, he should be cast away—lest the animal nature should rule the spiritual and cause him finally to be cast away. Christ says, “Deny yourself, [your animal nature] take up your cross and follow me,”—be governed by your spiritual nature or your Spiritual powers.

“There is a way which seemeth right unto man but the end there-

of is death." It seemeth right, when a man has a keen appetite to satiate that appetite.—It seemeth right when a man desires any particular kind of food or drink, that he should indulge his desires. But this is a way that if a man travels though, at the end thereof he will most assuredly find death ; and find disease, sufferings and afflictions nearly, if not quite all the way through.

Animal nature says, " Eat drink and be merry, for to-morrow we die."

Spiritual nature says, " Be temperate in all things."

Animal nature. " Why has God given us an appetite, if we are not to indulge it?"

Spiritual nature. " Deny yourself."

Animal nature. Why has God given us so many good things if we are not to enjoy them?"

Spiritual nature. " Let your moderation be known."

Animal nature. " How shall I keep alive if I do not eat and drink such things as God has given me?"

Spiritual nature. " Take just that *quality* and *quantity* which is actually necessary to keep the body,—the house I live in—the temple of God—in good repair, and rest satisfied with that *quality* and that *quantity*."

Animal nature. " I cannot be governed by such strict rules."

Spiritual nature. " You must, or else you and I must shortly separate!"

Animal nature. " I have many goods laid up sufficient to last me for many years ; what service will they all be to me if I do not use them ? I am determined to eat just what I please, and as much as I please ; to drink just what I wish and as much as I wish—' Soul take thine ease, eat, drink and be merry,'"

Death. " Thou fool ! this night thy soul shall be required of thee."

Petersburg, Va. Aug. 23. 1855.

NOTES FROM MY POCKET BOOK.

DIAGNOSIS OF PREGNANCY.

BY H. FEARN, M. D.

Prof. Barker in a lecture at the N. Y. Med. Coll. spake as follows ;—" Contray to what all the English and all but two of the French authors on Obstetrics describe, the *cervix uteri* does not commence dilating from above and gradually progress downwards, so that at the end of gestation it is so completely opened out, that it forms part of the general cavity of the uterus ; but on the contrary, it commences softening from *below*, and gradually progressing upwards till at the end of gestation the whole of the first phalanx of the index finger may be introduced.

"The softening, as I said, commences from below. At the second month you will be able to introduce the point of the finger, or feel a softening of the whole *os externum*, which condition you will be better able to appreciate, by pressing your finger on your own lip. This softening is not confined to the *canal* of the *cervix*, but gradually is the whole body of the *cervix* so softened, that you can move it about, without altering the position of the *body* of the *uterus*, which you cannot do when it is not impregnated.

"In the *prima para*, or first pregnancy, the *cervix* is a little shorter than before impregnation, the reason of this will be apparent, when I tell you that there is a little dilation in the center of the *canal*, which draws up the *os* toward the body of the *uterus*. In the *multi-paras*, although shorter than in the unimpregnated, this dilation and consequent shortening, does not take place; in the *multi-paras*, some allowance must be made; for the *canal* of the *cervix* never returns to the same size it was before impregnation,—consequently the *os externum* will be found a little more dilated, also the softening will take place a little quicker, and instead of the edges being inverted as in the *prima-paras*, they are *everted* a little, so that towards the end of gestation the *external os* presents an appearance very much like a finger of a glove, turned on itself from the first phalanx, with its end pointing upward.

"This softening is a *very important* point, in diagnosing the existence, or non-existence of pregnancy, and I should be willing to testify in any court of justice as to the fact, from the simple examination of the *cervix uteri* alone, so fully do I believe, that, wherever this is present, pregnancy is also, and *vice versa*, whenever this is not present, pregnancy is not,—I should not feel the least afraid of tarnishing my character as a physician. I have examined several thousand pregnant women, and in no instance have I found it fail. In most instances, the time can be correctly estimated. I have frequently verified this assertion, by correcting the patient's statements with regard to it. Of course a little education of the *finger* is required before you will be able to speak with confidence on this point.

"Out of a number of instances where this sign has been the *only one* on which I have relied, I will present one,—not to waste your time with more.

"About two years since, I was called in consultation by one of our *most distinguished* obstetricians of this city, to visit a patient, who had baffled the diagnostic skill of some thirty prominent obstetricians of this place, before my visit.

"The patient was a widow, and according to *her* statement, had not menstruated for eighteen months, had been a widow two years and a half and had never *known* a man since the death of her husband.

"After a little conversation with herself and physician, I was permitted to make an abdominal examination, and whilst doing this—constantly keeping the patient's mind on some other point—I acci-

dentally made an examination of the *cervix uteri*! after which I told her attendant that she was pregnant; he said, "it cannot be, for she is a *widow*," to which I replied, it is not an impossible matter, or one without precedent for a *widow* to become pregnant, still persisting in my previous assertion, at the same time stating my reason for coming to such conclusions;—of course the woman persisted in her previous assertion, it was perfectly natural for a widow to do so; those who had previously examined her, re-examined, not one, however, confirmed my diagnosis, in fact, one physician said that if she gave birth to a child within six months, he would support them both, so *confidant* was he that she was not pregnant.

"At the end of four months from that time, she was delivered of a dead child, she died a week afterwards from puerperal convulsions, thereby relieving the doctor of his self imposed duty.

"There is one condition of the *os* or *canal* of the *cervix*, and only one, that could possibly be mistaken for the sign under consideration, it is an epithelial inflammation or ulceration, which gives rise to a softening to the depth of about two lines in extreme cases, this only requires to be known to prevent any mistakes.

"When there is induration of the *cervix* you will not be able to say that pregnancy is present from this examination.

"I don't want you to take this because I say it, but I do want you to investigate for yourself every opportunity that is afforded.

"Taking things for granted, has been a serious drawback to the practice of medicine. Every author copies his predecessor and thereby endorses what in many instances is erroneous. In this instance, all the English and all but two of the French Authors, viz; Stoltz who first took notice of it, published an account of it as early as 1820, the other Cozeaux, who confirmed Stoltz's assertion,—with these exceptions all writers on this subject, have given a false description of this important point. Velpeau, translated by Meigs, gives plates of the true condition and gives the false description.

"Therefore never believe an assertion because it comes from high authority, but test for yourselves."

Prof. Friend of the Metropolitan Medical College of this City presented to his class, last spring, the same views as are embodied in this sketch, in reference to the state of the *cervix uteri* as affording a reliable sign of pregnancy.

It is said that Dr. Jourdain, dispatched by the French government to observe the yellow fever prevalent in Spain, and Dr. Mantez—appointed with the same object by the local junta of Gulpazcoa—report three cases of nursing women who fell victims to the epidemic, who nursed their young infants during their sickness without any perceptible injury to the health of the latter.

Editorial.

OUR JOURNAL.

WHEN we commenced the duties of Editor and assumed the responsibilities of this Journal, we made our calculations to lose money, and we did lose the amount paid for the 2d volume, but we are happy to say, that with the aid afforded by our friends in New York, and the trustees of the Metropolitan Medical College, the past volume has been published without any loss to us individually, and the increasing number of our subscribers affords us the most positive proof that our fourth volume, will give us a dividend for our services.

We make no boasts of our large list of subscribers, or of our extended circulation. All we have to say is, that if our patrons would all send us the dollar, we should now have 500 dolls. to put into our pocket, as pay for our services as editor. Our printer is paid up every cent to Jan. 1st. 1856, and we have over 500 dolls, now due us on our books. Will our friends just think of this, and send on the two dollars for the 3rd and 4th volume, and thus cheer us on in our arduous efforts for the cause of Medical Reform. The Journal will be regularly published on the first of each month, and our patrons will see, that if we have passed so far, the future is indeed promising. We have received many letters of commendation and encouragement, but dislike to fill our pages with personal flattery, so we exclude them, although very grateful to us,—yet it is sufficient for our vanity to *read* them.

We hope our patrons and correspondents will still continue their favors. There will be no relaxation from the course we have hitherto pursued in proscribing all poisonous medication and in advocating Nature's remedies.

MEDICAL MARTYRS.

The awful pestilence at Norfolk and Portsmouth has demonstrated one fact, that is worth handing down to posterity, and that is, that the medical profession has within its pale, those who are willing to sacrifice even their lives to save their fellow men. We may be called mercenary and selfish, yet it is a fact that of the large number of physicians from various parts of the U. S., who hastened to these plague stricken cities, and offered their services to the dying inhabitants, thirty six fell among the victims to Yellow Fever, and these besides the resident physicians who died.

In our last number we announced that Drs. Nash and Cannon, two of our most talented Medical Reformers had fallen. They were both sick at the

same time, and thus each was deprived of the services of the other. We cannot learn that there were any other Reformed Medical Physician there, till some weeks after the death of Drs. Nash and Cannon, when Dr. Hunter of this City, voluntarily offered himself to our Committee, who sent him to Norfolk. On his arrival there he presented himself to the Howard Association, but they used every means in their power to dissuade him from remaining. Everyday there fell some two or three unacclimated doctors, and the Howard Committee told Dr. Hunter it was almost sure death to remain, but if he still persisted in his determination, they told him to go over to Portsmouth, for there was more need of aid there. He passed over to Portsmouth, and presented himself to the Board of that City, but they refused to receive him, or rather earnestly advised him to return; he still persisted in his devotion, and they told him to go to work. Prof. Lincoln informs us that he was indefatigably employed for ten days before he was taken sick, and during that period he attended sixty five patients, and of that number only four died, sixty one recovered. Prof. L. received these facts from the Nurse who attended him during his last sickness. Now, will the success of Dr. Hunter in the treatment of this fearful disease ever be brought to the public notice, by the authorities of Portsmouth, or will any publicity be given to these facts? It has really been unfortunate, that these three Martyrs of Medical Reform should have been deprived of that treatment for themselves, which they found so efficacious for their patients, since they could not obtain a physician to carry out their views, and they were wholly unable to doctor themselves.

All honor to the Martyrs, Nash, Cannon and Hunter. May an appreciating community and a grateful public, give them their due meed of praise, as well as a suitable acknowledgement for their services rendered to suffering humanity.

THE WORCESTER MEDICAL INSTITUTION SOLD.

We are sorry to learn that the large building erected for the use of the Worcester Medical Institution has been sold, and the proceeds of the sale will leave little or nothing for the College after paying the debts. Although we predicted this state of things, and used all our influence to induce the Board to do what they are now compelled to do, viz, rent rooms in some eligible location in the City, the council of others prevailed, and our predictions have proved true; yet we regret this state of things, and hope the Worcester Medical Institution will rise above its present embarrassments, and become a firm and thorough advocate of the true doctrines of innocuous medication. It flourished while these truths were recognized, but since Eclecticism has governed its councils, "its glory hath departed," and we firm-

Iy believe that its future history will be properous or unfortunate in proportion as the doctrines and practice taught shall be in accordance with the principles of true Medical Reform.

Compare the situation and prospects of the Worcester College with the Metropolitan and then decide which councils have been the most judicious, and which College has in its arrangements the most elements of success. The future will determine this.

We have no disposition to exult over the misfortunes of others, but as we aided not a little in the early efforts for the Worcester College, we cannot feel otherwise than interested in its success and prosperity.

REMEDIAL ACTION AND INFLAMMATION.

In reply to our enquiry of our good freind Trall, of the Water Cure Journal, he says, " We have been through the douches and packs, got rid of the mist and fog that *once* surrounded us, [and which yet enshrouds our neighbor] and so are prepared to answer the question exactly. *Healthy* action is the action of a normal or healthy condition. *Remedial* action is the action which tends to restore the healthy condition. Inflammation *is* remedial action, because the effort or intention is to remove causes of disease. It is *not* healthy action because it is the action of a disordered or deranged state of the system—in other words, it is disease and to say that disease is health, is merely uttering a flat contradiction. If inflammation is healthy action, then it is healthy to be sick—a proposition our neighbor himself can hardly advocate. Would'nt a little No. 6, or '3d Preparation' be a good antifogmatic in *your* case friend?"

It is true that healthy action is the action of a normal condition, also true that remedial action is the action which tends to restore the healthy condition, equally true that inflammation *is* remedial, but let us candidly ask if inflammation tends to restore health, if it is not healthy although it is remedial? Does the fact that it is *remedial*, or even the action of a deranged state, prevent it from being perfectly healthy. The good doctor seems to have forgotten that we do not believe inflammation to be disease. He therefore begs the question, by assuming the very point in dispute, for he says, "If inflammation is healthy action, then it is *healthy* to be sick." Thus *assuming* that inflammation is disease and of course unhealthy action.

Why, friend Trall, well may we exclaim in your own language, "there is no end to this absurd and unphilosophical nonsense."

SOUTHERN BOTANIC MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA.

This College opened with 70 students and more are entering every day. No Reformed Medical College in the United States, not even the Eclectic Institute of Cincinnati, affords its professors so good a remuneration for their services, and we may also say, afford, such great advantages within itself, as does the College in Macon. The State donation, together with the beneficence of the Southern friends, has placed this College in a position to compare favorably with any Allopathic Institution in the country.

The popularity of Medical Reform in the South will sustain this College, and it will not be many years before it will take the lead even of Allopathy in Georgia.

PROF. CLEAVELAND ON CALOMEL.

Prof. King's attempt to defend Prof. Cleaveland's article in the *Lancet* is really a lame affair. Why does not Dr. C. *himself* explain what he does mean? We cannot see how the italicised quotation removes one iota from the true meaning of the words recommendatory of Calomel. Let Prof. C. explain what his language *does* mean, and if he discountenances the use of Calomel *under all circumstances*, let him say so and we will at once publish his disclaimer, but until he does do so, we must contend that his language approbates the use of this poison. We do not "deny that mercury is a solvent of the animal tissues," and this is one of the reasons why we reject it. Come Prof. Cleaveland speak out for yourself, don't get others to help you out of this dilemma.

DR. STOTESBURY'S OPERATION FOR OVARIAN TUMOR.

OUR readers will recollect that Dr. Stotesbury of Georgia, gave us some months ago a very interesting account of removing an ovarian tumor. It has now transpired that Mrs F. was one month gone in pregnancy when the operation was performed, for the patient was delivered of a healthy child at the full period, just 238 days after the operation, and the husband writing to Dr. Stotesbury says, "the mother and child are doing exceedingly well, and it affords me much satisfaction to say, that I cannot notice any thing of the tumor in her side, for I was fearful it might begin to grow as it did before, just after the birth of the first child."

It will thus be seen that this operation, so delicate and dangerous, and which has so seldom been performed, was not only successful, but did not

produce abortion. If the circumstances in the case do not prove that the operation was *skillfully* performed we do not how to show it.

If this operation had been performed by an Allopathic Physician, it would have been trumpeted to the four corners of the earth, and the operator extolled to the skies, but as a Medical Reformer happened to be the actor in this surgical exploit, his name has not a single notice from an Allopathic Journal and never will: on the other hand, if the operation had been unsuccessful, and the patient had died as such cases have in Allopathic hands, we have no doubt but half the Old School Journals in the land, would have decried the fool hardy operator, and pronounced him a quack and ignoramus.

This same Georgian Physician heroically exposed himself to the Yellow Fever in Savannah last year, and his success in the treatment of this epidemic was superior to all others, but this superiority was not noticed by the Allopathic reports, although the public papers gave him due credit for his noble sacrifices. When will bigotted, monopolizing Allopathy learn to render due credit to true merit?

NOTICE OF EXCHANGES.

THE MEDICAL CHRONICLE.—This is a monthly Journal, published at Montreal, Canada, an excellent Allopathic publication. We cheerfully place it upon our exchange list, and hope to enrich our own pages with some extracts from it during the year. Price \$2. per annum, in advance, 40 pages each number.

THE STUDENT.—This best of Journals for the young, has improved in its appearance, although before this change it was the delight of our young folks, who are so anxious to read it, that they refuse to eat, till they have devoured its contents.

The child, youth and parent, here find the choicest morsels of the best intellectual food. May the shade of our friend Calkins never be less, and may his assistant editor prove an equal caterer for the young. Let all the Schools in the land buy by the dozen, and every family place it upon the table. Price \$1 per annum.

LIFE ILLUSTRATED,—This excellent publication of the Fowlers and Wells has commenced a second volume, changed to a large quarto, improved in many respects, and although before the change, it was the best family newspaper in the U. S., yet now it has excelled itself, and the *Life* of 1856 will surpass that of 1855. *Excelsior* seems to be the motto of this enterprising

firm, and they have set an example, worthy of imitation by all publishers in the country. What publications in the country can compare to the Life Illustrated, Water Cure, and Phrenological Journals. All the ministers in Christendom are not exerting so much for the good of the human race, as are these Journals. The Life is only \$2. per annum.

BANKSTON'S CONCENTRATED ANODYNE.

PREPARED BY LAW AND BOYD, 68 EAST BROADWAY, N.Y.

It is believed from the test made with this article, that it is an efficient anodyne. Its consistency is about that of honey, as now offered for sale in the hands of Prof. I. M. Comings, in this city. It is put up in 1oz. and 2oz. vials at 25 cts. and 50 cts. each. Dose 10 to 30 drops.

It is intended that the next lot prepared, shall be reduced to the consistency of pill mass, and be put up in neat earthen jars. It can then be used in the form of a pill, or be dissolved in spirits and water, and if desirable a little camphor and anise oil added and used as drops.

As there is no secrecy intended, I may state that it is a hydro alcoholic extract of the American Valerian, Scutilaria and Hops. This preparation was suggested *alone* from a desire to supply the demand among the Reformed Medical profession, for an efficient and convenient anodyne. From the tests made by myself and others, it is hoped it will meet this demand.

It has been put up in New York rather than Macon, because the facilities were such as to manufacture it cheaper. I have no interest whatever in the sale of the article, beyond a desire to see our profession supplied with an efficient and satisfactory anodyne.

L. B.

We copy the above from the Southern Medical Reformer, and would call the attention of our readers to this anodyne. We feel assured from our own experience, as well as that of others who have tried it, that it will produce all the anodyne effects which are claimed for opium, and yet is entirely free from its narcotic properties. In fact, we think it will afford to our practitioners, just the medicine so much desired by every true Reformer.

The Messrs. Law & Boyd are supplied with it, and will be able to answer all orders for this anodyne which may be sent them, and those South can obtain it from us while we remain in Macon.

AS The solution of gutta-percha in chloroform has been much used in Germany, and has met with general favor. Dr. Eulenburg, of Berlin, says that he has used it successfully in treating obstinate forms of skin disease.

EXCERPTA.

AM. Trosseau relates, in the "Gazette des Hopitaux," the following remarkable case;—“A young man, 28 years of age, a native of St. Omer, had repeated attacks of asthma when resident there. On his going to London they ceased, and during the two years of his residence in that city he had not the slightest return of his complaint. At the end of this time he returned to St. Omer, and after four days he had a return of his symptoms. Three months later he went to Paris to consult Trosseau, and here the asthma left him in a short time. In the finest season of the year he went to Versailles, and was immediately attacked with asthma. He returned to Paris, and was for six months entirely free. After this he was obliged to return to St. Omer, and was there attacked so violently that he appeared to be dying. By Trosseau's advice, he was carried on a hand-barrow to the railway station, and brought again to Paris, where his sufferings once more vanished.

ADr. Thadicum has exhibited to the London Medical Society a new broth for the sick. To prepare this article, half a pound of the flesh of a newly killed animal—beef or fowl—is chopped fine, and well mixed with a pound and an eighth of distilled water, to which four drops of muriatic acid, and from half to a drachm of common salt has been added. After an hour, the whole is thrown on a common hair sieve, and the fluid is allowed to run off without pressure. The first portion, which is turbid, is poured back, until the fluid runs off quite clear. On to the fleshy residue in the sieve, half a pound of distilled water is thrown in small portions. In this way, a pound of fluid—cold extract of meat—is obtained, of a red color, and an agreeable taste of broth. The sick are allowed to drink a cupful, cold, at pleasure. It contains albumen, and is remarkably easy of digestion.

AAn interesting case is reported by Dr. Isaacs, of this city, of an engineer, who was struck on the right side of the head by machinery, ten years before death. The blow was followed by headaches on that side, which increased in severity toward the end of life, when they became agonizing. His intellect remained clear. Toward the end of his life his eyesight began to fail; he could see but one half an object at a time. No paralysis was noticed before death. After death, about one-fourth of the right hemisphere of the brain was found softened; and, under the microscope, the softened mass was found to contain an immense number of nerve tubes and nerve cells, but no pus.

An illustration of the fatality of the cholera in Naples, says the American Medical Monthly, is found in the statement that out of one infamously dirty city in that city, the disease destroyed 143 out of 146 of the inhabitants. The three survivors were removed by the authorities.

☞ An experienced medical writer states the following as the effects of tea upon the physical system : In ordinary doses, it has no effect on the amount of carbonic acid expired, the frequency of the respiration, or of the pulse. When the diet is insufficient, tea limits very much the loss of weight entailed thereby. When the diet is insufficient the body is more likely to gain weight when tea is taken than when not. Tea diminishes very much the loss of substance in the shape of area ; it also lessens remarkably the quantity of faeces secreted. The loss by perspiration is also limited by tea. These were noticed by Dr. Booker as the result of the most careful observations made by him.

☞ M. Robert, chairman of a committee appointed by the Surgical Society of Paris to consider the nature of chloroform, reports asphyxia is not to be apprehended as a result of the employment of chloroform, unless the method of inhalation adopted be defective, or the state of the respiration be not duly attended to. Chloroform predisposes to syncope, and renders the latter, when it occurs, more serious. In cases in which death takes place exceptionally, it occurs by syncope. The cessation of the action of the heart is sometimes very sudden. The state both of the pulse and of the respiration should be carefully watched.

☞ In the Russian bath the patient is treated rapidly by applying vapor raised to 55 degrees of temperature, (131 Fah.,) and after some minutes he is placed under a cold douche. The sweating and the douche are repeated four or five times in the space of twenty or twenty-five minutes. Then with a broom made of the leaves and fine twigs of birch, the surface of the body is flagellated in order to stimulate the skin. The patient then wipes himself, dresses, and takes a brisk walk.

☞ Mons. Piorry, the distinguished author of mediate auscultation, and the author of a new medical nomenclature, in nine volumes, has published a poem of God, the Soul, and Nature, in nine cantos. The apparition of such a poem by a clinical professor of the faculty on the same day that he presented and read a paper on the cure of phthisis by inhaling the vapor of iodine, has produced no small astonishment in the medical circles of Paris.

☞ M. Lallemand, a distinguished French practitioner, and honorary professor of surgery, at Montpellier, died recently at Marseilles, aged 65. He was the author of several valuable works pertaining to medical and surgical science ; and by his will he left a legacy to the French Institute of 50,000 francs, for the encouragement of researches on the nervous system.

A Prussian antiquarian, M. Brugsch, has discovered among the records of Sesostris the Great, a complete Egyptian Pharmacopœa, so that the Allopathic profession, who effect great respect for antiquated ideas, may now rejoice in the possession of recipes concocted by their predecessors at Memphis, 1359 years before the Christian era.

METROPOLITAN MEDICAL COLLEGE, NEW YORK.

THE fourth Session of this College will commence on the third Tuesday (16th) of October, 1855, at the Hall of the College, No. 68 East Broadway, New York. The 5th Session will commence on 2nd Tuesday March 1856.

FACULTY.

- I. M. COMINGS, M. D., Anatomy and Surgery.
- H. A. ARCHER, M. D., Theory and Practice.
- J. D. FRIEND, M. D., Midwifery and Diseases of Women, &c.
- T. S. SPERRY, M. D., Chemistry and Materia Medica.
- H. S. LINCOLN, A. M., Medical Jurisprudence.
- C. B. BRAINERD, M. D., Lecturer on Diseases of Eye and Ear.

This Institution has been in successful operation for three years. It is legally incorporated and duly authorized by the State of New York to confer Medical Degrees.

The Students of this College have free access to the most extensive Anatomical Museum in the country, and to the largest Hospitals in the United States, where disease in all its forms and surgical operations of every description are witnessed.

The whole fees for tickets to Lectures,	\$70,00
Matriculation and Museum,	5,00
Students having attended two courses in other Colleges, but none in this,	10,00

Good board can be obtained in the city from \$3,00 to \$4,50 per week, with all the comforts of good room, lights and fuel.

Students desiring further information, will address Prof. I. M. Comings, Dean of the Faculty, 68 East Broadway, or H. M. Sweet, M. D., Secretary of Board, No. 16 West 13th Street, New York.

SPRING SESSION OF THE METROPOLITAN.

The Spring Session of the Metropolitan Medical College, will commence on the second Tuesday of March next, 1856. It is probable in future, the Board may not think it best to have two Sessions per annum, so that the next Spring course may be the last, and in future only fall and winter Sessions will be held. It is well, therefore, for those desirous of attending in summer, to be present the next Session.

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